FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 SEPTEMBER 1980

Iraq-Iran Conflict

Iraqi Negotiating Conditions--Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, in a Paris press conference reported by INA, said that the Iraqi leadership would make a "positive decision immediately" on negotiating with Iran if the Iranians fulfill the following conditions: "Iran's recognition of Iraq's sovereignty and rights in its territory; the establishment of good-neighbor relations with Iraq and the Arab nation; a definitive end to its intervention in the domestic affairs of the neighboring countries and an end to any kind of aggression." 'Aziz did not fully define what Iraq considers to be its territories, saying only that it demands Iranian respect for Iraq's "full sovereignty" over the Shatt al-'Arab and territories acknowledged by international agreements as belonging to Iraq, which Iraq has been forced to "liberate in the past few days." 'Aziz also said that whether "Arabistan" (the Iranian province of Khuzestan) is Arab or non-Arab should be determined by the people living there, but he stressed that Iran must return the Greater and Lesser Tunb-e Islands and Bu Musa to "Arab sovereignty," specifically the UAE.

Concerning mediation attempts, 'Aziz said Iraq does not "reject any attempt aimed at solving the dispute on a peaceful basis," but would accept no initiative from the United States, the Arabs' "enemy," or Israel. He stated that he has "no information" about mediation by Arab countries. The deputy prime minister affirmed that Iraq is waging a "national and pan-Arab battle for rights and sovereignty." He expressed appreciation to those Arab countries that have given their support and said that Iraq will have "nothing to do" with those that have not.

Tariq 'Aziz also gave assurances that Iraq "will continue to meet its obligations to countries concerning oil supplies" and that it "fully respects freedom of navigation in Shatt al-'Arab, the Arab Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz." In a related development, the Voice of Lebanon reported that the Lebanese Foreign Ministry has been informed of the Iraqi decision to resume the pumping of oil to the Tripoli refinery after a hiatus of 4 years. On another issue, AFP reported that 'Aziz stated during the press conference that he made no request to the French for arms.

Military situation--An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by Baghdad radio, announced that Iraqi forces entered Khorramshahr on the afternoon on 25 September and that the city has become a "graveyard for the remnants of the Persian Magian enemies." Later a report said "security has been completely established" in the border area between Basra and Khorramshahr following the purging of "all hostile Persian elements." According to Baghdad radio, Khorramshahr was seized without "causing any harm to the civilian areas." Tehran radio's Arabic service, however, denied that Khorramshahr has fallen, reporting that President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr visited the city on the afternoon of 25 September, the very time Baghdad claimed the Iraqis had captured it. Tehran claimed that Bani-Sadr's visit to Khorramshahr revealed the "extent of the lies and fabrications pursued by Baghdad radio and other hired world radios" in reporting the battle for Khorramshahr. On 26 September Tehran's Arabic service went on to report that 50 Iraqi tanks were surrendered on the outskirts of Khorramshahr, and an AFP report the same day, citing the Japanese consulate in Khorramshahr, said "fierce fighting" continued for control of the city. On another front, a Baghdad radio report claimed Iraqi troops have reached the approaches of Dezful and are "tightening their siege" of the town.

Conveying the impression that the Iraqi Armed Forces are consolidating administrative control over Qasr-e Shirin and Mehran, which they claim to have captured on 23 and 24 September respectively, Baghdad radio's Persian service thanked the inhabitants of those areas for the "praiseworthy" reception they had accorded to the Iraqi troops. The radio said that the revolution guards have been captured and that the citizens "can continue their normal activities and can refer to their Iraqi brothers for any of their needs, which will be willingly fulfilled."

Other General Command communiques carried by Baghdad radio's Voice of the Arab Masses reported that Iraqi aircraft carried out sorties over Kermanshah, Shahabad, Aqa Jari, Dezful and Tabriz airports and destroyed a radar station in Ahvaz and that city's radio station. However, Ahvaz radio was monitored broadcasting "red alert regulations" after the Iraqi claim that the station had been silenced.

A General Command communique also reported that the Iranians had bombed Irbil, Mosul, Baghdad, Al-Kut, Basra, Ash-Shu'aybah, the Dukan area and oil installations in Kirkuk and 'Ayn Zalah. The Iraqis claimed to have downed 35 Iranian planes and a helicopter during the course of these raids.

Iran has once again warned its Persian Gulf neighbors not to aid its enemies. A Joint Staff statement carried by Tehran radio said "intelligence received" indicated that "certain neighboring countries and certain shaykhdoms" are about to cooperate with the "enemies of Islam" and place "essential spare parts" at their disposal. The Joint Staff repeated earlier warnings that any cooperation with Iraq will result in "serious consequences" for those involved.

At a press conference on 24 September, reported by INA on 25 September, Iraqi Defense Minister 'Adnanx Khayrallah Talfah claimed that the Iraqis have "regained all the land areas that have been trespassed by the Iranian side and have settled our dispute with Iran concerning the land differences." He estimated the recaptured territory to be 324 square km. Concerning the Greater and Lesser Tunb-e Islands and Bu Musa, Talfah declared that Iraq has made its stand "quite clear" and that "it is now left to the rightful owners, the UAE, to act according to their own evaluations and in light of the international realities." Talfah asserted that there are no other Arab contingents involved in the Iraqi action and that Iraq intends to keep it that way, but that if Iraq ever has occasion to ask for pan-Arab assistance, it would do so "without any embarrassment." Asked about arms supplies from the Soviet Union, the defense minister said: "We have no complaints concerning arms supplies from the Soviet Union. Tariq 'Aziz's visit was not made for this purpose. Also, we did not ask the Soviet Union to supply us arms for the current situation. The Soviet Union has not turned down any request from us in this regard, as we have up to now not made any such request."

Regional Reaction, Mediation Efforts--According to an "unscheduled announcement" broadcast by Baghdad radio, Saudi King Khalid phoned President Saddam Husayn and "affirmed Saudi Arabia's support for Iraq in its national battle against the Persians, the Arab nation's enemies." However, the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY said only that Khalid had "expressed his interest and his good fraternal feelings" to Saddam Husayn, confirmed the "depth of the fraternal relations between the two sister countries" and asked God to "guide our steps in the interests of our Arab and Islamic nation." Lebanon has rejected Iranian claims that it is "biased" in favor of Iraq. According to the Voice of Lebanon, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Kasrawan Labaki told the Iranian ambassador in Beirut that "in our capacity as a member of the Arab League we are with Iraq, and in our capacity as a member of the Islamic Conference we are with Iran."

Karachi radio reported that Pakistan is "vigorously attempting" to bring about a halt to the fighting and that to this end has been in touch with the governments of both Iran and Iraq. The radio said Pakistan supports Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's call for an emergency session of the Islamic Conference foreign Ministers to deal with the crisis. Karachi radio also reported that Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti has met with representatives of Iran and Iraq and stated that the Islamic Conference will study the formation of a "high-level mediation mission" to help resolve the crisis.

Report, Denial of Khomeyni Death--Baghdad radio's Voice of the Masses early on 26 September reported that "it has been ascertained that the charlatan Khomeyni has died." The radio charged that recent statements issued under his name actually had been written by others in an effort to overcome Iran's "strangulating crisis." The Baghdad report said the fact that Tehran radio had broadcast statements assuring the Iranian people that Khomeyni was "safe and well" was actually proof of the reverse. But Tehran radio's Arabic service almost immediately denied the Baghdad report by replaying a recording of a Khomeyni message on personal safety originally carried by the radio's Persian service 10 hours earlier, and saying that "mad Saddam" is broadcasting "disgraceful reports such as this" to "undermine the support of our revolutionary masses in Iraq." The radio later reported that Khomeyni received President Bani-Sadr on the morning of 26 September.

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COMMENTARY ON 'ARAFAT'S MEDIATION BETWEEN IRAN, IRAQ

NC252103 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1745 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Unattributed commentary: "Abu 'Ammar in Baghdad, in Tehran--a trust and a message"]

[Excerpts] The Arab and Muslim nations are pinning high hopes on the Palestinian role being played by Brother Abu 'Ammar to solve the current conflict between Iraq and Iran and to stop the blazing fire between the faternal countries. Inasmuch as the Arab and Islamic nations feel bitter about this war, they look forward to the success of the commendable Palestinian efforts to spare Arab and Islamic blood, whose belonging to the Camp David of the fighters against imperialism and Zionism cannot be disputed.

Abu 'Ammar, who along with the worry of the south--which is daily intensifying and forming one of the gravest dangers threatening the Arab nation--is preoccupied with the greater worry of Palestine and has been presenting it to the brothers in Baghdad and Tehran, is undertaking his mssion to remind the brothers in Baghdad and Tehran that the danger is here in this part of the Arab and Islamic worlds and that it can be better warded off and prevented from spreading through our Arab homeland only when the internal bleeding between Baghdad and Tehran is stopped.

Abu 'Ammar is bringing a message to the combatants in Baghdad and Tehran that says that regardless of the justifications for this war by any of the parties and regardless of its dangers and its international complications, it nevertheless remains secondary and aimed at aborting the principal war that all of us must wage for the sake of our rights and of our Arab and Muslim peoples' present and future. Whatever the results of the war between Baghdad and Tehran, the one thing we know is that the only victor in the end will be the enemies of Iran, Iraq, Palestine and the Arab and Islamic nations.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: PRC TO SUPPLY ARMS TO PLO

LD221242 Kuwait KUNA in English 0959 GMT 22 Sep 80

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Sep (KUNA)--A local newspaper reported Monday that China has promised to provide the Palestine Liberation Organisation with weapons enough to arm 30,000 fighters. AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM said that the Chinese leadership made the pledge to a Palestinian delegation who visited Beijing recently headed by Khalil al-Wazir--Abu Jihad.

The newspaper added that a Palestinian delegation will visit Kuwait and other Arab Gulf countries to discuss with their governments the possibility of providing military training for Palestinians living in these countries. This training, the newspaper said, is part of an overall mobilisation plan by the PLO to confront the war of extermination launched by Israel against the Palestinians.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON PFLP VISIT TO KAMPUCHEA 15-19 SEP

For SPK's text of the communique on the visit to Kampuchea by a PFLP delegation from 15 to 19 September, see the Kampuchea section of the 25 September Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT, page H 2.

KUWAIT

AS-SABAH DISCUSSES CURRENT EVENTS WITH IRAQ'S HUSAYN

LD251018 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn has stated that the amir this morning had a telephone conversation with his brother the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. They exchanged views on the current events and on the proposal to hold an emergency meeting of the Muslim and Arab foreign ministers.

SAUDI ARABIA

KING KHALID SPEAKS WITH SADDAM HUSAYN BY PHONE

LD251946 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1905 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] Jidda, 25 Sep (SPA)--A telephone conversation was held today between His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his excellency the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, during which His Majesty King Khalid expressed the President Husayn his interest and his good fraternal feelings. The two exchanged views on the dimensions of the current situation. His majesty confirmed the depth of the fraternal resolutions between the two sister countries. His majesty said: I beseech God Almighty to guide our steps in the interest of our Arab and Islamic nation.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS CHATTI, SHAHI, IRAQI OFFICIAL

LD252250 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, yesterday [25 September] conferred with Habib Chatti and with Agha Shahi, the Pakistani foreign minister. They discussed the situation between Iraq and Iran.

His royal highness also received 'Ismat Kittani, undersecretary in the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. The latter explained to his royal highness Iraq's stand toward the situation on the Iraqi-Iranian border.

PDRY

CHAIRMAN APPEALS TO IRAN, IRAQ TO STOP FIGHTING

LD251658 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has sent similar cables to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Imam Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, leader of the Iranian revolution; and Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr. They read:

We would like to express to you the concern of our people and government at the recent bloody and regrettable incidents which are proceeding at this moment between the two neighboring peoples, who are the brothers of our people. The escalation of differences between Iraq and Iran into armed fighting does not serve the interests of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples, rather it serves imperialism and Zionism which are lying in wait for both peoples.

We appeal to you to exercise self-control, resort to dialogue and negotiations and resolve the differences by peaceful means. The difficult circumstances which our Arab and Islamic nation is facing demonstrate very clearly that we are in more need today than at any time in the past of sparing the blood which is being shed on the Iranian and Iraqi front.

Your ceasing to fight will protect the souls of the innocent and save all the energies being wasted in the battles in progress today between the Iranian and Iraqi brothers, in orde- to use them in the sacred and just battle which is being waged by our Arab and Islamic nation against its common principal enemy, who is occupying its territories and exhausting and plundering their resources.

YAR

PRESIDENT SALIH SPEAKS ON REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

LD252026 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1707 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Address to the people by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the 18th anniversary of the 26 September revolution--recorded, date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] Among our important achievements is the building and modernization of the armed forces and security forces. They witnessed numerous practical steps through their development and [words indistinct] the college of national defense which doubled [words indistinct] of our forces; and at the level of [word indistinct] and training, raising the combat and scientific efficiency and equipping them with modern (?potentials) in a manner that would enable them to play their national role in protecting our sovereignty and independence and defending our national gains and to participate (?fully) in the battle of Arab destiny [words indistinct]. We appreciate all the efforts being made to build and develop the armed forces and security forces.

On this great occasion we value and appreciate the support being provided by sisterly and friendly states to our development plans and programs.

Brothers, the restoration of the unity of the two parts of our country is a great aim of our glorious revolution which was proclaimed on the morning of 26 September 1962, and it is a great goal of the sons of the homeland. It is the fateful question, as far as our people are concerned, on which the (?road) of progress, development and (?full sovereignty) [words indistinct] (?will depend).

Our meetings have been continuing from time to time with the brothers in the southern part of the homeland [words indistinct] to overcome all the difficulties and to remove all the obstacles from the road of unity. [passage indistinct] Our recent meeting with Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad in San'a', at the beginning of this month, was another installment and a new step on the road to the unity of the two parts of our country. [passage indistinct]

We have also been able to deal with all states of different economic and social systems, taking into consideration our national and pan-Arab interests, a matter that has enabled us to (?discover) new friendships and to deepen our existing friendships without renouncing our independence [words indistinct], committed to the principles and rules of the UN Charter.

Congratulations to our revolution and congratulations to you on what has been achieved and is being achieved. We should all continue the march forward until our country becomes what we want it to be with regard to progress, development, strength and prosperity. We make a true pledge to you that we shall continue to strive to preserve the gains of the revolution, loyal and sincere to its aims, and to proceed along its road, loyal to this homeland.

AS-SADAT REITERATES DENUNCIATION OF BOTH IRAQ, IRAN

NC251621 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] Mit Abu al-Kawm, 25 Sep (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat has stated that Egypt condemns both Iraq and Iran and both Saddam Husayn and Ayatollah Khomeyni for the current war between both countries. He also said that the Iraqi and Iranian peoples were victims of the grudge between these two teenagers. In a statement today after casting his vote in the consultative council [Majlis Ash-Shura] elections, President as-Sadat said: We have the complete freedom to do what is necessary to maintain security and balance in the region. He also said: We must not let the situation completely deteriorate while it is being offered on a gold platter to somebody else.

The following is the text of President as-Sadat's remarks:

Question: Mr President, what is your view of the current conflict between Iran and Iraq?

Answer: Well, I have expressed my opinion: You must have read it in the past 2 days. I met with journalists and told them that we condemned both sides and both leaders, the leaders of Iraq and Iran. As for the people, be they the people of Iran or Iraq, they are victims of the grudge between these two teenagers, as I have described them.

Question: Mr President, do you believe that it is possible that the Hormuz Strait will be closed, which would endanger oil supplies?

Answer: Someone said that the Iranians were in control of the Hormuz Strait--although I read something different today--and that they would close it or do something of this nature. However, the next day the Iranians announced that they would do nothing of this sort and that as long as the battle was between them and Iraq and no other party assisted Iraq, they would not close the strait.

What I want to say is that if the fate of people in the Middle East or in the entire world is in the hands of teenagers, who have weapons and oil, or depends on the hatred among teenagers--be he Khomeyni or the leader in Iraq--then this will be a very tragic thing. Therefore, I have stated that Egypt will always be responsible for balance and security in this region, and we have complete freedom to do whatever is necessary to maintain security and balance in the region.

Question: When will you hold consultations with the United States?

Answer: I cannot determine this now. However, the matter is being discussed with my advisers.

Question: What about the United States?

Answer: The United States. I have stated that we must not let the situation completely deteriorate while it is being offered on a gold platter to somebody else.

AL-AKHBAR EDITORIAL ON CAUSE, EFFECT OF IRAQI-IRANIAN WAR

LD251345 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 23 Sep 80 p 6

[Editorial: "What's After this Ferocious War?]

[Excerpts] The war between Iraq and Iran is expanding on land, at sea and in the air and the battles are daily becoming more ferocious. The question being asked now is: How long will this war last, where will it stop, and what effects will it have on the Middle East since it is being fought at its gate and in one of its most important strategic positions?

To answer this question you need a true understanding of the objective for which fighting broke out and to know who lit the fuse of this war.

There is no doubt that it was Iraq that started the battle under the pretext of restoring the territories that Iran took from Iraq under the treaty concluded with the shah's regime.

The question is not one of restoring Iraqi territories or Shatt al-'Arab; it goes beyond that. Iranian President Bani-Sadr views the situation this way: It is not a matter of a peripheral battle or skirmishes but an all-out war. For this reason he has called up the reserve forces and declared total readiness to face this war. Bani-Sadr spoke about the ferocity of the fighting and accused the United States of being behind it. We wonder whether by this statement he is opening the door to Soviet intervention and whether the Soviets, being preoccupied with Afghanistan and Poland, are in a position or have the capability to intervene.

However, whether the United States was behind or ahead of Iraq the Iranian president must face the war and its developments with all its consequences. If the United States were behind Iraq, as Bani-Sadr claims, this means that the war will be prolonged and that rather than shrinking it will progress and expand. We do not know how far Iran can endure such a war.

At whatever point this war stops, its results will be positive in relation to the Middle East situation. One of these results is bound to be understanding on long-standing sensitive matters which over the years had become provocative problems which were bound to explode one day.

BAGHDAD RADIO REPORTS DEATH OF AYATOLLAH KHOMEYNI

JN260618 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0604 GMT 26 Sep 80

[Text] It has been ascertained that the charlatan Khomeyni has died. To hell with him and may he have the most wretched fate. The statements being announced to overcome the strangulating crisis they are passing through are signed by others. Had it not been so, the statements would have been announced in his own voice and he would have been shown on television, as happened in the past.

This is also confirmed by the imposition of curfew and blackout in Tehran and the issuance of several statements yesterday confirming that Khomeyni is in good health and calling on Iranians not to believe rumors which say that Khomeyni has died and saying that he is safe.

Thus, tyrants and the oppressors of the people meet their black fate as a result of their ignorance, arrogance and lack of knowledge of the facts of matters.

Rejoicing at Khomeyni's 'Death'

JN260911 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0820 GMT 26 Sep 80

[Station commentary]

[Text] This morning, there were news reports on Khomeyni's death without anybody knowing whether he died of fear and panic of the courageous Iraqi air raids over Tehran, whether he died in grief and distress for the heavy losses inflicted on his forces or whether he died out of disappointment as a result of the repeated defeats inflicted upon him by the various Iranian peoples.

What is important is that he died, whether for this or that reason. The Iranian peoples have celebrated the occasion, considering it a means for deliverance from his evils, crimes and racist mentality. All the Iranian peoples rejoiced at the death of Khomeyni because, with his sadist mentality, he was thirsty for blood, starting and ending his day with an orgy of barbaric executions. Anybody can take hold of any local or foreign newspaper to find out for himself that the day before, Khomeyni had executed at least 20 people on various charges.

The Iranian peoples rejoiced at Khomeyni's death because he tyrannized and enslaved them, gave free rein to his guards against them and sowed sedition among them. We heard every day about a terrible massacre of the Iranian Kurds, the Baluchi people, Arabs, Turkomans or even Persians themselves.

His hollow magian vanity made him aspire for power and expansion beyond the scope of Persia. He looked here and there as if the neighboring countries were his easy prey. Khomeyni's policy was based on suppression, bloodshed, expansion and the export of trouble and disorder abroad. His constant motto was: The more blood you shed, the more you tighten your grip and power.

However, power did not last for Khomeyni. In the midst of his crimes, he forgot that he would die and that his lust for power and bloodshed would end and collapse before the reality of death and the will of struggling peoples who are capable of confronting and repulsing him and his criminal lust.

With Khomeyni's death, the Iranian peoples have gained an important round against the rotten magian clique which is suppressing and oppressing them. They now have to overcome his clique and gang, which is few in number and which followed and obeyed him, so as to win the final round against their tyrants and so as to save themselves from the crimes of this treasonous clique, which has sold itself to the devil.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUES 25-26 SEP

Communique No 28

GF251408 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1356 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Communique No 28 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 28 September 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

1. Our air force continued to strafe fortifications of the racist Persian enemy within his territory, inflicting heavy losses. Today our air force raided the enemy's bridges and lines of communications, inflicting heavy damage as follows:

A. Striking at and destroying Ahvaz radio.
B. Striking at and destroying a hostile radar station in Ahvaz.

2. At 1300 today our coastal artillery shelled two enemy gunboats in the Khawr 'Abdallah Canal. One of the gunboats was sunk and the other fled.

3. At 1318 today some of our naval units and helicopters took part in a naval battle at the entrance of Khawr 'Abdallah with enemy naval units, at the northern end of the Arabian Gulf and valiantly destroyed three enemy naval units.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 September 1980.

Communique No 29

JN251550 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1533 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Communique No 29 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 25 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

With every victory, determination is intensified, will is doubled, the spirit of Al-Qadisiyah and the honor of mission are revived anew in the conscience of our heroes, and the flags of victory and freedom fly high over the enemy positions which are collapsing before our heroes' bold strikes and daring advance. Our forces entered Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] at 1300 today. The town has become a graveyard for the remnants of the Persian magian enemies, who knelt down like Rustam's elephants and troops [reference to Sassanid Persian general who lost the battle of Al-Qadisiyan during the Arab conquests in 637 A.D.].

Long live the leader, long live the people and long live the nation.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 September 1980.

Communique No 30

JN251625 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1616 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Communique No 30 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 25 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Enemy planes continue to attack the residential areas and economic installations. At 1645 today, enemy planes raided Mosul. Our ground resistance intercepted them, downing one plane.

At 1650 today, enemy planes raided Kirkuk, hitting the Kirkuk airport and residential quarters. Our ground resistance intercepted them, downing two planes.

At 1700 today, the enemy planes raided the Dukan area. Our ground resistance intercepted them, downing one plane.

The enemy raids caused damage to some residential quarters and some loss of live among civilians.

The total number of enemy planes shot down today is 28.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 September 1980.

Communique No 31

JN252138 Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2127 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Communique No 31 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 25 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

The number of enemy planes shot down by our air defenses today is as follows:

1. In the northern sector: The Iranian planes raided Irbil, Kirkuk, Mosul and 'Ayn Zalah. Twenty planes were shot down.

2. In the central sector: Iranian planes raided Baghdad and Al-Kut. Six planes were shot down in Baghdad and three planes were shot down in Al-Kut.

3. In the southern sector: Iranian aircraft raided Basra and Ash-Shu'aybah. Six planes and one helicopter were shot down. This makes the number shot down today 36.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 September 1980.

Communique No 32

JN252155 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2135 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Communique No 32 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Commamd on 25 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassinate:

The enemy has become confused and has lost all sense of balance. This has made him commit continued excesses and carry out haphazard shelling without discriminating between Iraqi and non-Iraqi civilian targets, thereby violating all international norms.

At 0915 today, the enemy planes raided the Arab Gulf base [not further identified] and Umm Qasr port. This resulted in hitting the bow section of the Greek ship (Litz) while it was anchored in the port. Fire broke out on the ship, but it was checked. The Kuwaiti ship Ibn al-Haytham was also hit, and two crew members were martyred.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 September 1980.

Communique No 33

JN260722 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0712 GMT 26 Sep 80

[Communique No 33 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 26 September 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Our victorious forces continue their advance with determination and resolve toward their targets in the various sectors, inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment on the enemy.

Enemy losses this morning are as follows:

1. Occupation of a full Iranian camp containing 29 tanks in good condition, a large number of vehicles and other equipment and material.
2. The destruction of eight self-propelled 155-mm guns.
3. The destruction of 27 tanks and 10 armored vehicles of various types.
4. The downing of nine enemy planes over the battlefield by our field defenses.
5. Several hundred captives.

Our losses were as follows:

1. Seven martyred.
2. Twenty-eight wounded.
3. Three fighter planes and the loss of one pilot.
4. One helicopter.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command 26 September 1980.

Communique No 34

JN261029 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1005 GMT 26 Sep 80

[Communique No 34 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 26 September 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Enemy planes resumed raids today against our economic and military installations and residential quarters. Our ground defenses repulsed them, inflicting the following heavy losses on them:

1. At 0755 today, enemy planes raided Mosul, aiming at the military and economic installations. One plane was shot down. Our losses in Mosul were: four wounded civilians.

2. At 0806 today, enemy planes raided Kirkuk, aiming at Kirkuk airport and the economic installations. Two planes were shot down.

3. At 0840, enemy planes again raided Kirkuk, aiming at the above-mentioned targets. One plane was shot down.

4. At 1035, enemy planes raided Kirkuk, Qayyarah and Mosul. Five planes were shot down in Kirkuk, one in Mosul and one in (Darbandikhan).

Thus, the number of enemy planes shot down by our ground defenses this morning, up to the time this communique was prepared, has reached 11.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 September 1980.

BBC REPORTS ON IRANIAN AIR ATTACKS AGAINST BAGHDAD 25 SEP

TA251528 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 25 Sep 80

[From "Radio Newsreel"]

[Text] First in Radio Newsreel we go to Iraq itself. In the capital, Baghdad, a BBC correspondent, Michael (Vesty), has been following developments in the fighting as reported by the Iraqi authorities. He watched raids by the Iranian Air Force on Baghdad this morning and sent this eyewitness account.

[Begin recording] The Iraqis claim now to have shot down three American-built Iranian Phantoms that attacked Baghdad this morning. This seems unlikely as I saw the jets flying low away from the city after they had dropped their bombs on a military base and a petrol refinery. A house was also strafed by the jets. The raid came at breakfast time, and an air raid alert made people leave the streets to shelter inside. I saw the jets streaking away over the city and my hotel to avoid the constant antiaircraft fire. British Embassy staff reported seeing SAM-7 missiles being fired at the jets, but they missed their target.

The Iraqis now claim to have shot down a further 19 Iranian aircraft today though few believe these figures are accurate. They also say they have captured a further two Iranian towns, bringing the total to five. The Iraqis maintain they are only taking territory that they believe to belong to them, but so far they seem to be doing more than that to put them in a position of strength when the time come to negotiate. The main fear is that the war will spread to the gulf, affecting other nations using that waterway. [end recording]

ARMED FORCES REACH APPROACHES TO DEZFUL 25 SEP

JN251943 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Excerpt] Our valiant armed forces have reached the approaches of Dezful, 35 km from the Iraqi outpost of Al-Fakkah in Maysan sector. Our armed forces are tightening their siege around the town.

The INA mission in Maysan sector said that the Iraqi forces are chasing the remnants of the defeated Persian troops, which are retreating and abandoning their arms, tanks and equipment.

AMBASSADOR TO CUBA REPORTS SURRENDER OF 2 IRANIAN DIVISIONS

PA252219 Paris AFP in Spanish 2158 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] Havana, 25 Sep (AFP)--Iraqi Ambassador to Cuba Arshad Tawfiq Ismail has told the press here that two entire divisions of the Iranian Army surrendered today to Iraqi forces at the Shatt al-'Arab, in the extreme southern sector of the border between Iraq and Iran on the Persian Gulf.

The diplomat, who is in permanent communication with his government, added that just today his country's army had downed 28 Iranian Phantom jet fighters and recovered 29 tanks, 13 missile launching positions and 20 batteries of 175-mm guns "which were abandoned by the enemy troops."

The ambassador also indicated that some 200 civilians had died in Iraq in bombings since the beginning of the war. He confirmed the occupation by Iraqi troops of Khorramshahr, site of the Abadan refinery.

TARIQ 'AZIZ HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCES IN PARIS, AMMAN

Paris Statements

JN251654 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1637 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] Paris, 25 Sep (INA)--Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, has asserted that Iraq was compelled to use force to defend its sovereignty over its lands and waters.

He told 150 journalists who attended a press conference he held here today that the Iranian Government had not honored the 1975 agreement despite Iraq's numerous attempts to make it understand the need to respect the agreement and Iraq's sovereignty.

Tariq 'Aziz pointed out that the Iranian authorities responded to the Iraqi requests and appeals by adopting stands of aggression and defiance against Iraq's sovereignty and its national security.

'Aziz said that Iran has breached the agreement's provisions that guarantee Iraq's rights. Iran continued to retain the privileges on Shatt al-'Arab in accordance with the agreement. The situation became unacceptable, because Iran retained the privileges granted to it by the agreement while rejecting Iraq's legitimate rights stipulated in the agreement.

Tariq 'Aziz added: We, therefore, were compelled to liberate our territories by force, to impose full Iraqi sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab and to abrogate the 1975 agreement. He said that in his speech on 17 September, President Saddam Husayn asked the Iranian authorities to respect Iraq's legitimate right, to recognize its rights of sovereignty over its lands and waters and to abide by the good neighbor policy between Iraq and Iran. He said that the Iranian authorities responded to this peaceful appeal by continuing the aggression, disavowing the Iraqi legitimate rights, leveling aggressive threats and threatening to use its military force, which they claimed was capable of striking at Iraq and destroying its armed forces.

Tariq 'Aziz said: Accordingly, our only option was to proceed with the military operations. Our objective is to persuade the Iranians of the need to recognize Iraq's rights and sovereignty over its national waters.

Tariq 'Aziz asserted that Iraq opposes resorting to the rule of force in solving international disputes. He said that Iraq's primary battle is its battle against Zionist Israel and imperialism which supports Israel. He added that Iraq had never considered Iran a hostile country because it was eager to preserve good neighbor relations and cooperation with Iran based on recognized international norms.

The deputy prime minister added: However, the present regime, ever since it came to power, has been violating the principles of being a good neighbor, intervening in Iraq's domestic affairs and leveling aggressive statements, and threats against Iraq.

He said: A few months ago, the Iranian president said "that if the Iranian armies march westward, I will not be able to halt their advance toward Baghdad." 'Aziz added that the Iranian officials continued to brag and threaten to storm Iraq and to overthrow the present regime.

Tariq 'Aziz said: We are now forced to fight for peace and to bring those rulers in Iran back to their senses so that they may establish good-neighbor relations between Iran and the countries in the area, and in order to make the rulers of Iran give up their arrogance, refrain from interfering continuously in the affairs of the area and know that the territories of others are not to be spoiled by them.

On his visit to Paris and his talks with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Tariq 'Aziz said: I and the French president held talks of a political nature.

Asked about Iraq's oil commitments, Tariq 'Aziz explained that as long as the matter depends on Iraq, it will continue to meet its obligations to countries concerning oil supplies. Iraq possesses the necessary means to do so.

On the possibility of carrying out negotiations to end the present dispute, Tariq 'Aziz said: We have no designs or objectives other than obtaining our rights. If any party wishes to talk to us, we are ready to listen and talk. He added: What we seek is that the Iranian Government respect Iraq's right of full sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab and the Iraqi territories acknowledged as Iraqi territories by well-known international agreements. These territories are those which we have been forced to liberate in the past few days.

On the nature of the Arab stand, Tariq 'Aziz said: We have waged a national and pan-Arab battle for rights and sovereignty. We highly appreciate those who supported us. As for those who did not state their support, we have nothing to do with them and they will have to face their people concerning their stand.

On Iraq's visualization of the situation in Arabistan and its pan-Arab affiliation, Tariq 'Aziz said: A determination of this nature should be the responsibility of the people who live on this land. It is not up to us to determine whether Arabistan should be Arab or non-Arab. The people living there are the ones qualified to determine this.

Asked about the damages sustained by Iraqi economic targets, the deputy prime minister said that Iraq had not started the strikes on economic and civilian targets. He added: We warned the Iranians through a number of statements issued by the Revolution Command Council against attacking civilian and residential targets. He said: Last Tuesday, the Iranians straffed residential areas as they did again today. We were forced on our part to strike at Iranian economic targets. We, however, did not strike at civilian targets. All the raids carried out by our planes were against Iranian war bases or against Iranian military concentrations. He asserted that the government in Iraq is a responsible government, well aware of the rules of war as well as those of peace.

On the freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, Tariq 'Aziz said: We have asserted to the Frech president, and we assert to the entire world, that Iraq fully respects freedom of navigation in the Shatt al-'Arab, the Arab Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

He added that Iraq is a country that has responsibilities toward the world, has vital interests and is exerting its utmost for the sake of safeguarding navigation. He added that the matter does not concern Iraq alone. The other side is now at a complete loss and has become contentious in the area, thereby threatening the freedom of navigation in the gulf. Those who rule Iran have proved to be irresponsible.

Asked about a formula acceptable for holding negotiations with Iran, Tariq 'Aziz said that any formula that guarantees Iraq's rights on its land and waters, that leads to the establishment of relations of good neighbor relations between Iraq and Iran, that prevents Iran from attacking Iraq and the area's states and that prevents Iran from intervening in the area's affairs is acceptable to us without any reservations.

Asked about the status of the three Arab islands [Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa] and whether these islands should return to Iraq's sovereignty [words indistinct], Tariq 'Aziz said that the islands do not belong to Iraqi sovereignty [word indistinct]. They are Arab islands. For a long time we stressed the need to return these islands to Arab sovereignty. We will continue to do so and Iran must give up its designs on the Arab territories and return the islands to the UAE.

Asked about the training of mercenaries by the Syrian regime [words indistinct] and dispatching them to Iraq to carry out acts of sabotage, Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq has adopted its decision to wrest its land and maters, but as far as the acts of sabotage are concerned, these are not new. We are aware of them and they have been taking place for some time.

Asked if he expects the collapse of Khomeyni's regime should the war continue, Tariq 'Aziz said that the Iranian regime's position toward the Iranian peoples is an Iranian internal issue. But as for the Iranian regime's aggressive stance toward us, we are prepared to confront it with force.

Asked about an Islamic-Arab mediation and about Yasir 'Arafat's mediation, Tariq 'Aziz said: We do not reject any attempt aimed at solving the dispute on a peaceful basis whether these come from Islamic countries or others. He added that he has no information about mediation by Arab countries.

He added that Iraq is ready to accept any mediation by any country in the world with the exception of Israel, which we do not recognize, and the United States, which is the Arabs' enemy. With regard to Europe, we respect our relations with it and we respect its opinion.

Asked why he has chosen to visit Paris, the deputy prime minister said: We have important international relations. We contact our friends in the world in critical circumstances to acquaint them with the real situation. We exchange views with them and consult them on stands that should be taken. He added: We have relations of cooperation and friendship with France. We respect and appreciate France's international role. It is therefore natural to visit France and to hold talks with its president on these matters.

Tariq 'Aziz said that if the Iranian officials declare today that they accept Iraq's conditions, the Iraqi leadership will take a positive decision immediately. He explained that these conditions are: Iran's recognition of Iraq's sovereignty and rights in its territory, establishing good-neighbor relations with Iraq and the Arab nation, definitively ending its intervention in the domestic affairs of neighboring countries and ending any kind of aggression. He pointed out that Iraq does not wish to continue the battles, not out of weakness, but based on its position of strength and capability.

Amman Statements

JN261104 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 26 Sep 80

[Text] Amman, 26 Sep (INA)--Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and deputy prime minister, has said that Iraq refuses to use the logic of force in solving international disputes. At a press conference held here today, he said that Iraq was at no time considered Iran a hostile country. On the contrary, Iraq aspires to have good neighbor relations and cooperation with Iran on the basis of recognized international conventions. He added: Since its assumption of power, the present regime in Iran has been violating good neighbor principles, interfering in Iraq's internal affairs, threatening, bragging and issuing statements hostile to Iraq.

Mr Tariq 'Aziz stated that Iraq has so far presented to the Iranian Government through diplomatic channels 90 memoranda stressing the need to be a good neighbor and 240 memoranda pointing out Iranian violations. However, Iraq was exposed to 187 military aggressions by Iran during the 3-month period beginning with last June. Iran shelled a number of Iraqi cities from Iraqi territories, namely, Zayn al-Qaws, and built military bases in the region. In view of this hostile position, Iraq could not let the 1975 Algiers agreement remain valid. Tariq 'Aziz added that Iran never respected the 1975 agreement despite Iraq's repeated attempts to (?convince) Iran of the need to respect the agreement and to respect Iraqi soveregnty.

The RCC member and deputy prime minister affirmed that Iraq never once thought of provoking a dispute with its neighbor Iran.

He added that Iraq is a part of the Arab homeland and one of the main states which are firmly and determinedly confronting the Zionist enemy in occupied Palestine.

Tariq 'Aziz said: Iran violated the articles of the treaty which guaranteed Iraq's rights and continued to hold onto the privileges Iraq had in Shatt al-'Arab in accordance with the treaty, acting so much so that the situation became unbearable, thus forcing us to use force to liberate our territories.

Tariq 'Aziz said that the Iranian authorities responded to President Saddam Husayn's 17 September demand that Iran recognize Iraq's right to sovereignty over its territory and water by continuing its aggression, denying legitimate Iraqi rights, uttering aggressive threats and hinting at the use of its treacherous military force to strike at Iraq and destroy its armed forces, as they alleged.

Tariq 'Aziz added that faced with such a stand, we had no alternative but to continue carrying out military operations with the purpose of convincing the Iranians of the need to recognize Iraq's right to and sovereignty over its national territory and waters.

In his answers to the questions from the journalists, Tariq 'Aziz emphasized Iraq's faith in the support of the Arab nation and masses for right and liberation. He praised the support of some fraternal Arabs for Iraq, adding that the stand of King Husayn, the Jourdanian Government and the fraternal Jordanian people was at the for front of such support.

Tariq 'Aziz announced Iraq's refusal of any form of interference in the gulf. He said: "We refused such interference years ago, we still do so and always shall."

The RCC member expressed Iraq's appreciation for the attention of countries worldwide to the issue of the fighting on the Iraq-Iranian border. He said: "We respect any initiative made by responsible and friendly quarters to solve the current problems in accordance with principles that will guarantee Iraq's legitimate rights and its sovereignty over its land and waters." He emphasized that Iraq had not asked the Security Council to convene for that purpose.

He said that the results of his visit to France were good and that viewpoints on various international issues, particularly the fighting with the Persian regime, were discussed.

DEFENSE MINISTER REPORTS ON IRAQI-IRANIAN DISPUTE

JN251713 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 25 Sep 80

[TExt] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)--Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and defense minister, held an important press conference in Baghdad last night. General Khayrallah dealt with the developments on the war fronts, the victories achieved by the armed forces over the racist Persians, the reasons which prompted Iraq to wage a battle for the liberation of its usurped territories and other current topics.

Opening the conference, General Khayrallah said: We welcome you to Iraq and appreciate your efforts in traveling a long way to reach Baghdad to get first-hand information on the current issues between us and Iran. We hope that you will convey the facts to the world without any modification and exactly as you find them. We will be very careful as always to tell you the facts as they really are.

Before I answer your questions, I believe it would be appropriate to sum up the situation for you.

We and Iran have approximately 1,000 km of common border and we are linked to Iran by three agreements on border issues.

The first agreement was signed in 1913 and is called the Constantinople Agreement. This agreement, which was amended in part in 1937, is an international document and has addenda in the form of protocols which are registered with the responsible quarters.

In the early 70's and during the shah's rule, we and Iran had border differences, and interference in our domestic affairs took place in line with the course of aggression and expansion of the former shah, who was well-known for his arrogance. After 7 years of bitter struggle with the shah, the Algiers Agreement was signed on 6 March 1975 and contained three protocols. These three protocols concerned land borders, territorial waters and river borders, and internal security. The agreement stipulates respect for the two countries' rights and sovereignty, and noninterference in their internal affairs. The agreement stipulates modification of river and land borders. A violation of any of these points is to be considered a revocation of the agreement by either party.

As you very well know, internal troubles began in Iran after the conclusion of the agreement. The situation in Iran deteriorated and remained that way until the shah's departure and the installation of the new regime in 1978. Border violations from both parties continued.

The protocol on land borders stipulated that any violation by one of the two parties would be settled by a committee which was formed for that purpose. The committee had demarcated the borders and stipulated that any trespassing by either of the two parties would be rectified.

Concerning river borders, the Constantinople Agreement stipulated that the border between Iran and Iraq on the Shatt al-'Arab must be where the water meets the land on the other bank of the river. The amendment of the agreement in 1937 gave the vessels docking in or leaving the Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] and Abadan ports more freedom to maneuver. As I previously stated, this agreement was unilaterally revoked by the shah.

Due to circumstances of force majeure of which the president of the republic has repeatedly spoken and due to periods of weakness and strength in the life of countries and peoples, and to the pressures to which they sometimes are subjected, we would not have agreed to the Algiers Agreement if we had had the choice. We accepted the agreement because local, Arab and international factors forced us to accept the de facto situation, which was at the time a step toward a better stage, to a position beyond the 1975 agreement.

Despite this, we fully implemented our side of the 1975 agreement on the land borders and the Shatt al-'Arab.

The Iranian side, due to the circumstances which I have already mentioned, did not fulfill its commitments concerning the land and river borders.

We said to ourselves that the new Iranian regime needs time to reorganize its domestic affairs and that logic dictates giving it time to reorganize its own affairs and it would then be possible to reopen this file.

More than a year and some months have passed since the new regime in Iran assumed power.

Two months after the new Iranian regime came to power, the Iranian authorities instigated agent Barzani and his sons--who fought the Iraqi authorities for 7 years to disrupt internal security and whose case was covered by the Algiers Agreement in its third protocol on internal security--and began supplying these groups with weapons, providing them financial assistance and training them on its territories.

Therefore, legally, the Iranian side has violated all three protocols of the agreement. It did not implement the protocol on land borders which stipulated the return of the territories which have been trespassed. It acted unilaterally concerning the Shatt al-'Arab; the agreement stipulates that border lines must pass through the Thalweg Line in Shatt al-'Arab, that is, the deepest point in the river.

In accordance with the agreement, any violation of any of the three protocols voids the agreement. We have broached the subject with them officially many times, and documents proving this are kept at the Foreign Ministry. The reply of the new Iranian regime was complete silence; their reply even went beyond this when more than one Iranian official in the new regime announced that they do not recognize the 1975 Algiers Agreement.

Gentlemen, as you know, this makes the agreement void in accordance with international norms.

Early this year, and for the last 2 months, border clashes continued and reached such an extent that on 4 July 1980, heavy artillery was used to shell border towns, more precisely Khanaqin and Al-Munziriyah, which are customs posts in the Khanaqin-Qasr-e Shirin sector. Artillery also shelled Zarbatiyah in the Badrah sector.

This constituted a dangerous turning point in our relations. The next day we responded with force against enemy civilian [as received] targets. On the following day, Iran used its air force to strike at border targets. The situation continued to escalate until 22 September.

We submitted a memorandum to the Iranian Foreign Ministry through the Iranian charge d'affaires in Baghdad calling for the return of the territories which had been trespassed upon and which are covered in an international agreement, basing our stand on the latest statement the Iranian chief of staff has made in which he declared the cancellation of the 1975 agreement. We identified the positions which we wanted back, pointing out that should no response be received, we would use force to regain our territories. In fact, our forces began to regain the first part near Khanaqin. After completing this mission, we moved to the Sayf Sa'd area, where the area on which trespassing has taken place was 8-10 km wide and 10-15 km deep. Iranian border posts had also been set up in areas 2 km inside Iraqi territory in the Maysan Governorate in the central sector.

All this concerns the land borders, on 7 September. We began to regain the first area called Zayn al-Qaws. On 10 September, we regained a second area, that of Sayf Sa'd.

I believe that on 12 or 13 September we regained five border posts which had been trespassed upon. Thus we have regained all the land areas which have been trespassed upon by the Iranian side and have settled our dispute with Iran concerning the land differences.

We have asked Iran in the three memoranda to which I have referred to recognize the legitimate boundaries of the territories regained.

There still remains the dispute on the course of the Shatt al-'Arab and the right of navigation on it. We have asked for the return of full Iraqi sovereignty over the river and we have informed all commercial vessels that entry to and exit from this river shall take place under the command of an Iraqi pilot and under an Iraqi flag, and that all vessels which do not conform to these instructions will be warned and forced to hoist the Iraqi flag. Following these instructions, the Iranian side intercepted incoming and outgoing commercial vessels in the Shatt al'-'Arab and opened fire on more than one of them.

As I recall, the Iranian side intercepted a Japanese vessel, whose captain and some of its crew were wounded. Iran announced that it had closed the Hormuz Strait and that it would not be responsible for guaranteeing the safety of Iraqi vessels entering or exiting the strait from or to Iraq. We had no choice but to put pressure on what we believe are Iran's vital interests to force it to retract its decision to impose its sovereignty on the Shatt al-'Arab waters. We have warned it of the consequences of this decision given the importance of international maritime routes and the threat this decision would pose to the interests of the Third World, especially since we know that Europe. Japan and other countries obtain their oil supplies from the area. We also warned Iran that this stand would lead to developments in the area that could in turn lead to large-scale war. Before taking any steps, we informed the Iranian authorities in official memoranda delivered to all the ambassadors accredited to Iraq. Of course, you are well aware of the nature of espionage by the political command in Iran. Iranian leaders imagined that the issue was just a picnic.

We have no designs on any part of Iranian territory. We do not wish to expand the area of our territories at the expense of others and we are fully aware of the danger of this decision. As a result of Iran's intransigence and in order to defend our legitimate right of sovereignty on our land, we decided at 1200 on 22 September to lay our hands on points vital to Iran's interests inside Iranian territories to deter Iran from striking our national sovereignty and to make it recognize our full sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab waters and the land borders, as stipulated in international agreements and recognized in international law.

Since 22 September, we have been announcing the developments in the area as they really are and as we see them with complete accuracy and in light of the facts that we have.

We have taken care to meet with you to convey this picture to our friends in the world. We greatly hope that the Iranian command will abandon its arrogance, which has no justification, and live in peace with the countries in the area.

We used to consider most of their official statements as being part of the contradictions their command is living in. At one time, the Iranian president declares that Iraq is Iranian territory and a Majlis member says that Bahrain is also Iranian. At other times, they state their readiness to occupy the Arab Gulf. All these statements, regardless of whether they are serious, represent a common position of a state's leadership. This is what has taken place and I am ready to answer any of your questions with complete clarity.

The deputy commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces then answered journalists' questions.

Question: You have said more than once that you intend to regain all the Iraqi territories seized last year by Iran. Does this include the region of Arabistan? Are there any special conditions for withdrawal for Arabistan which do not apply to other Iranian territories into which the Iraqi forces have advanced?

Answer: Some foreign news media have begun to hint clearly or between the lines that Iraq wants to control the oil sources in Arabistan. You know very well that we are not in need of the Arabistan oil. We have enough oil and had Iran responded to our legitimate demands for sovereignty, we would not have embarked on this action. However, Iran was not very sensible on this matter. Once Iran acknowledges our legitimate demands concerning our sovereignty over our territory and recognizes our historical and legitimate rights, we would have no problem with it. Our crossing of the international border and entry into Iranian territory was a reply to Iran's closure of the Shatt al-'Arab and the Strait of Hormuz, which is vital not only to Iraq but also to all the states in the region. As I mentioned, the purpose of our action is to hold Iran by the neck until it goes back on recent decisions and recognizes our rights. Once it has done that, then we would have not designs on Iran.

Question: Was the timing of the war imposed on you and was it the proper time? Will the war take long and how much of the Iraqi forces are now taking part in the fighting? What are your conditions for cease-fire?

Answer: As to the first part of the question whether the war was imposed on us or not, the answer is yes and no. Yes because we do not want war; and no because the circumstances, the Iranian behavior and its repercussions on our vital interests imposed the war on us.

As for how long the war will take, this will depend on the realization of our vital aims. Iran might surprise us and agree to our legitimate rights and we will stop where we are now. Otherwise we will continue to pressure Iran at its vital points deep inside Iranian territory until Iran responds completely to our legitimate interests.

Concerning the other part of the question as to how much of the Iraqi Army took part in the fighting, I tell you honestly that not all the Iraqi Army took part but most of the army's elements took part. As for our terms for ceasing hostilities, I have already made the terms clear on two occasions.

Question: When Iran announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, Iraq replied by ordering its forces to advance into Iranian territory. Is this the only answer to the Iranian position, or will Iraq use force in the region of the strait to undercut the Iranian measure?

Answer: Our position is as you see it now. We have acted according to developments. But if other developments occur which would enable us to achieve the objective I mentioned earlier, then we will exploit them. We will try to exploit every possible means to prevent the expansion of the war. We will also not hesitate to pursue any peaceful means that would lead to the same results.

Question: The Soviet Union is the main source of the arms used by Iraq. Has Tariq 'Aziz's visit to Moscow led to a Soviet pledge to establish an air bridge for supplying arms to Iraq? And, to what extent are you assured of your sources of armament in this war?

Answer: You know, gentlemen, that we are linked with the Soviet Union by a treaty of friendship and cooperation. One of the provisions of the agreements stipulates that the two sides shall consult on matters related to international relations. Tariq 'Aziz's visit to the Soviet Union falls within this framework. We have no complaints concerning arms supplies from the Soviet Union. Tariq 'Aziz's visit was not made for this purpose. Also, we did not ask the Soviet Union to supply us arms for the current situation. The Soviet Union has not turned down any request from us in this regard, as we have up to now not made any such request. We did not ask for arms during Tariq 'Aziz's visit.

Question: What are the losses, in equipment and in lives, on the Iraqi side, and what is the damage among the forces in Baghdad as a result of the air raids launched by the Iranian fighters?

Answer: The war is still continuing. War is no picnic, as you all know; it kills and destroys and causes both intentional and unintentional damage. We have losses among the planes which have raided the Iranian bases. We also have losses in tanks and personnel carriers. We honestly tell you, however, that our losses are as have been announced in the daily reports. We are quite certain of the announced losses in Iranian planes during their raids on our country. However, we have only announced a modest number. At any rate, in war all numbers are subject to change at any time and according to the circumstances. Yet it is still appropriate to tell you honestly that our losses cannot be compared to the losses of the other side. This is the case even though the balance should be completely different because we are attacking and it is assumed that the attacker usually sustains heavier losses than the defender. In any case, I don't remember the exact figures but they are still the figures we announced, the figures which we care to make available to our people as they really are. The question of losses is something we took into condsideration in advance.

Question: Have any non-Iraq forces taken part in the fighting? Iran claims that Egyptian forces are fighting at the side of the Iraqi forces. What is the wartime role of the Iranian military personnel who defected to Iraq?

Answer: Iraq, in accordance with its public policy, is an Arab state which has pan-Arab goals. According to our ideological position, Iraq is a part of the Arab nation. We have more than once announced that Iraq has pan-Arab commitments toward the Arab homeland and that Iraq stands at the side of any Arab state in its fight against foreigners. This has been frequently stated by our president. If we feel it necessary to ask for aid from our fraternal Arabs, we will do so without any embarrassment. Not specifically in the present circumstances, but at any time. I am speaking now in general and not in particular and despite our proud and great appreciation of any Arab effort to support Iraq's pan-Arab causes; yet I honestly and sincerely assure you that when we made our decision, we were fully confident of our ability. Therefore, we were able to achieve our announced goals. If there were any Arab participation in the fighting, we would not have hesitated for one minute to announce it. Moreover, you are aware of the fact that our relations with the Egyptian regime are well known in spite of our great appreciation and pride in fraternal Egyptian people. We are in no need of any help. We are capable and quite confident of ourselves though not conceited. We are fighting with pure Iraqi capabilities. However, you may assure yourself of this fact through your own means, as for the role of the Iranian military personnel who took refuge in Iraq, we have Iranian political refugees. This is a situation that happens with any other state in the world and we deal with the situation in accordance with the recognized international regulations to which we fully adhere. However, I hereby firmly reiterate that despite our great appreciation of all the fraternal Arabs, there is and will be no one but the Iraqis fighting this battle of Iraq.

Question: Has Iraqi oil production been affected by the war? How is Iraq exporting its oil in the current circumstances?

Answer: The question you are discussing is first of all a political one. The military command has drawn up plans to implement the tasks set by the political command. When such a political decision is made, it is assumed that all calculation from various sides, including the worst possibilities, are taken into account. Faced with a situation like this, we do not take into account whether we increase or decrease our oil production. This is something that depends on the march of events.

Question: Has the joint Arab defense pact provide effective in current war circumstances, and to what extent? What is Iraq's evaluation of the Arab states' stands on this war?

Answer: Regarding the joint Arab defense pact about which you asked, I say that we fully adhere to its provisions. Yet, Iraq has a well-known pan-Arab charter. Moreover, Iraq has national commitments toward the Arab homeland. Thus, I believe I have already answered the first part of the question. So far we have not asked the fraternal Arabs to take part in the battle. We are fully meeting our commitments according to the pan-Arab interests, and wherever the Arabs need us in any of their states. Therefore, I can see no connection between the joint Arab defense pact and the current situation because what is happening now does not contradict any of the pact's provisions or the pan-Arab charter.

Question: What is Iraq's position on the three Arab islands? Is it true that the UAE has rejected the Iraqi plan to liberate these islands?

Answer: Gentlemen, you know that the three Arab islands were occupied by Iran in 1970 during the shah's reign. These islands were Arab before this date and throughout history. Their inhabitants are Arabs and the islands are located within Arab territorial waters. Iraq's opinion on the return of the islands has been made clear long before now. Our feelings and sympathies are with the population of the islands and the return of the islands to their rightful owners. As for an Iraqi plan, I have never heard of this in either Arab or international forums. However, my confirmed information is that the UAE has submitted a memorandum to the United Nations requesting confirmation of the UAE's ownership of the islands. However, we have made our stand quite clear. It is now left to the rightful owners, the UAE, to act according to their own evaluations and in light of the international realities.

Question: Do you still believe that the OPEC conference will be held as scheduled?

Answer: The absence of one or two representatives does not mean the lack of a quorum at the conference. If for one reason or another the conference is postponed, this will be something normal that happens with any conference. In light of the answers we have received from the parties concerned in OPEC, I can say that the conference is in the works.

Question: Are there any attempts at mediation between Iraq and Iran? Are such attempts from Arab or neutral parties, particularly since reports have indicated that the PLO has already exerted efforts at mediation?

Answer: In any dispute between any of the Arab states and a foreign side, the Arab always stands at the side of the Arab state. This is something I pointed out at the beginning of my statement. Thus, it will be quite unacceptable for an Arab to try to mediate between us and any foreign side. Stemming from this understanding, we do not accept such mediation. However, we will discuss and exchange views with any Arab side if this side is requested to give his opinion or views. How any Arab side behaves, after leaving here, with the other party to the conflict is something we leave to the Arab side and according to its own thinking. We have not requested mediation from anyone so far. But we also do not reject mediation if it falls within the considerations I mentioned at the beginning of my statement. If the Iranian side had been prepared to recognize our rights, things would not have reached this point. In spite of that, we are ready to listen to any opinion that may lead us to the results and goals which we have announced and to which the Iranian side did not respond. We do not want war. We have no designs on either Iranian oil or Iranian land. We harbor great love and respect for the Iranian people. We harbor great love for the Iranian Armed Forces on which fighting is imposed only to serve the desires of the arrogant political command. Other than this, we have no reason to fight with Iran, a neighboring friendly state.

Question: In your estimate, what is the area of Iraqi territory occupied by the Iranian side?

Answer: If I am correct, the territory occupied by the Iranian side is in the region of 324 square kilometers. All this territory entailing land has been retrieved.

Question: Is it true that certain foreign quarters have begun evacuating their nationals to Oman after learning that four Britons were killed during the Iranian air raids on Basra?

Answer: The Iranian Air Force has bombed several civilian targets, including the Basra petrochemical complex, as we have already announced. Some 20 workers in the complex were martyred and 50 other injured. But I do not recall that there were foreigners among the casualties. If the evacuation is due to this raid, then all I can say is that the country is at war. The enemy is bound to strike here and there and people are bound to fall victim. This is what war is about.

Question: Do you believe that Iran has declared war in the full sense of the word?

Answer: War means clash of armed forces and strikes at civilian and military targets. If this is what we mean by war, then whether it is declared or not, the present situation shows that a war is indeed going on.

Question: Do you believe that expansion of the Iraqi-Iranian fighting to other parts of the Arab Gulf could lead to the intervention of foreign powers, although, as we know, President Saddam Husayn has always called for keeping the region outside the international power struggle? Could this encourage the United States to reinforce its presence in the region now that it has obtained facilities from several regimes?

Answer: As I said earlier, the region is vital because many world industries depend on fuel from this region and oil is a very flammable commodity. War means the destruction of sources of energy. The Persians have lost their senses and begun attacking vital installations, sources of oil and civilian targets. This morning, they bombed an entire residential area in Kirkuk, in Baghdad, several areas were destroyed by Iranian aircraft. We also bombed their sources of oil in Khark and Abadan today. We will retaliate against every Iranian attack on our territory.

If they bomb a civilian area, we will also bomb one of their civilian areas. If they bomb one of our sources of oil, we will bomb one of theirs. If they bomb one of our air bases, we will bomb one of their air bases. Of course, we will retaliate more severely, because they are the ones who take the lead.

We hope that this war will be contained. The president has announced on several occasions that we are not after war or expanding the fighting, because we would only reap destruction. But the Iranian leadership does not recognize even the most fundamental international legal responsibilities. What can we do with people who do not appreciate the honor of responsibility and do not respect the international community?

You and the superpowers who are following the battles via their satellites can blame us if we are the first to start anything. But we have not, although we are in a position to do so. I would like to assure you, my friends, that we are in a position to reach any target in the Iranian interior. However, due to our awareness of our responsibilities and commitment to our principles and our respect for international law, we have been careful not to go beyond the requirements of legitimate defense.

Concluding the press conference, the Arab and foreign journalists asked the defense minister to permit them to visit the fighting positions and the liberated Iraqi territories. The minister replied: With pleasure. But on one condition only, that this will be at your own personal risk. If we are absolved on this responsibility, then you are most welcome. The front is still hot. But we will try to respond to this request at some other time.

PERSIAN BROADCAST ADDRESSES RESIDENTS OF 'FREE' AREAS

NC252158 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 1600 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] Respectable inhabitants of Mehran and its localities; Muslim brothers and sisters of Qasr-e Shirin and its localities: We congratulate you on your release from the hands of Khomeyni's executioners and his murderous and criminal revolution guards. The welcome you gave to the brothers in the armed forces was praiseworthy. You can now live with peace of mind. The revolution guards have been captured. The armed forces have joined us and are ready to move to save the remaining compatriots. You are now totally free and can sleep peacefully at night. Your brothers of the Iraqi Army are prepared to extend any assistance to you. We assure all of you that you will not be harmed in any way, and that those in this region who want freedom can continue their normal activities and can refer to their Iraqi brothers for any of their needs, which will be willingly fulfilled.

Message to Urban Dwellers

NC252146 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 1600 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] Inhabitants of cities who have been freed from Khomeyni's bloodthirsty regime: Hold this freedom dear. You can now continue your lives without fearing Khomeyni's executioner revolution guards who have terrorized you. The Muslim Iraqi fraternal soldiers guard your safety and embrace you warmly. You can now breath and continue your lives in a free atmosphere. You can sleep in peace at night and be safe from murders and plunderings.

AMBASSADOR TO ITALY HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE 25 SEP

AU251611 Rome ANSA in English 1550 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] Rome, 25 Sep (ANSA)--Iraqi Ambassador in Rome Taha Ahmad ad-Daud said here today that his country would withdraw from Iran as soon as the Tehran government agrees to hand over the region contested by the two countries in the estuary of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Addressing a press conference, the diplomat also claimed that "The Iraqis do not want war, but they have been forced to defend their territorial integrity violated by the ayatollah's fascist and retrograde regime".

"Khomeyni's regime is becoming worse than that of the shah," he told reporters, adding that many Arabs living in Italy have "voiced the desire to go [words indistinct]."

In other points, he poohpoohed Iranian threats yesterday to blow up the gulf oil wells and block the Strait of Hormuz.

Answering a press conference held here by the Iranian ambassador in Rome, he described the threats as a "symptom of confusion and weakness".

"Khomeyni wants to export his revolution, but in fact he only manages to export confusion" the diplomat commented. "His fanaticism means turning the clock back to the middle ages".

The diplomat also asked for Italian solidarity. "If Italy does not show this solidarity in a tangible fashion, will you suspend oil supplies?" he was asked bluntly.

The ambassador replied with an Arab proverb, "Don't ask if the bridge will stand up or fall, try crossing it."

But he said he was optimistic over the future of Italian-Iraqi friendship.

"I know the Italians understand our viewpoint" he said. "The aim of the recent visit to Rome by a high-level Iraqi delegation was to strengthen ties with Italy. Iraq knows what Italy's needs are and Italy knows what Iraq's needs are."

STATION APPEALS TO AHVAZ, AL-MUHAMMARAH MASSES

JN252000 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1955 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Station appeal]

[Text] Arab masses in the Ahvaz and AL-Muhammarah: The Iraqi Armed Forces constitute the Arab nation's arm on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland. You constitute the domestic front in Arabistan. Resist the Persian occupation with all means. The revolution is yours. Victory is yours. Glory to the Arab nation.

TV WARNS IRAN AGAINST SHELLING HOLY PLACES, IMAMS' TOMBS

JN242055 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Sep 80

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)--Baghdad television has warned the Persian racists against attacking the holy places and the imams' tombs in Iraq. A television commentary said tonight that the Iraqi forces will totally demolish the Iranian cities if the sick thinking of Khomeyni leads them to harm the holy centers. Baghdad television stressed that the Persian racists know better than others that when Iraq says something it matches its words with deeds.

Baghdad television was commenting on the Khomeyni clique's rumors to the effect that the Iranians intend to shell ho_ places in Iraq. It said the Iraqi leadership knows quite well the dimensions of thse allegations and noted that the Iraqi people and their valiant army, who protect the holy places and the imams' tombs, are lying in ambush for any stupid attempt the racist Persian regime may undertake.

FIRING REPORTED IN BEIRUT'S COMMERCIAL SECTOR 26 SEP

VOL Report

NC260950 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0915 GMT 26 Sep 80

[Text] The security situation exploded some 10 minutes ago in the commercial sector in the very heart of the capital. The Palestinian and leftist armed forces opened automatic fire in the direction of Al-Burj, Ad-Dabbas and As-Sayfi. Intense firing with various weapons continues to this time.

Beirut Report

NC261038 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Sep 80

[Text] The security situation became tense suddenly at around 1100 today in the commercial sector area, where violent exchanges of fire and shelling have occurred. The security commands are holding urgent contacts to deal with the situation.

IRAQ TO RESUME PUMPING OIL TO TRIPOLI REFINERY 25 SEP

NC251121 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1015 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] Today, for the first time, Lebanese Ambassador in Iraq Pierre Ziyadah contacted the Foreign Ministry and informed the ministry's Secretary General Kasrawan Labaki that the Iraqi Government has decided to resume the pumping of Iraqi oil to the Tripoli refinery as of today. Iraq had suspended the pumping of oil about 5 years.

OFFICIAL REPLIES TO IRANIAN AMBASSADOR'S CHARGES

NC251135 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] In Beirut, a Lebanese diplomatic source expressed the dissatisfaction of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry with the statement that was made yesterday by the Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon. The ambassador accused Lebanon of partiality toward Iraq in its war against Iran.

The diplomatic source affirmed that the Foreign Ministry, in riposting the Iranian ambassador's statement, will take measures within the next 24 hours.

LABAKI EXPLAINS LEBANON'S STAND ON IRAQI-IRANIAN WAR

NC251348 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] Today Lebanon defined its attitude toward the Iraqi-Iranian war in a statement made by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Kasrawan Labaki following the latter's meeting with the Iranian ambassador to Lebanon, Kamal Mussavi, at noon today.

Labaki said: I explained to the Iranian ambassador that in our capacity as a member of the Arab League, we are with Iraq; and in our capacity as member of the Islamic Conference, we are with Iran. We hope that the crisis will end as soon as possible.

Ambassador Labaki added: We do not interfere in the internal affairs of any country. Lebanon is a country of freedom and for this reason the government will not be responsible for anything reported by the information media. He said: We cannot accept the contents of the communique issued by the Iranian Embassy 2 days ago attacking the Lebanese officials on the highest levels.

Ambassador Mussavi said that he explained to Ambassador Labaki his country's point of view on the war raging with Iraq adding: We are not only fighting Iraq but those who are behind it--America--which has prompted the Iraqi government to launch a large-scale war against Iran through false allegations and accusations which indicate that the Iranian Government is racist and has expansionist goals. All the world knows that we do not have expansionist goals and that our republic is based on the shoulders of the oppressed and has triumphed thanks to the upsurge against the tyranny and (?discord) which prevailed in the country during the defunct regime.

He added: I have discussed with Lebanese Government officials the reaction that might take place in the Lebanese arena. We are fully prepared to foil all the plots that any group of the Iraqi Ba'th agents could engineer in Lebanon. I have asked Lebanese Government officials to be concerned with guarding the Iranian Embassy because we see that there are signs indicating that some Iraqi agents want to create conditions that are inappropriate for the Lebanese Government.

AL-HUSS COMMENTS ON IRANIAN-IRAQI WAR, MINISTERIAL CRISIS

NC251311 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Excerpts] At 1130 today President Ilyas Sarkis presided over an extraordinary cabinet meeting. Prime Minister al-Huss and the ministers attended the meeting which was devoted to discussing the general budget bill for 1981.

After the meeting Prime Minister al-Huss answered questions:

Asked whether there was an imminent solution to the ministerial crisis, Al-Huss said: The key to the solution for the ministerial crisis is not in my hands. According to the regulations in force in Lebanon, the initiative is in the hands of the president. My repeated emphasis that there must be a solution as soon as possible stems from my understanding that a prolonged crisis will serve the enemies of legitimacy and order as well as the enemies of Lebanon's unity and sovereignty only. It will also expose the situation of the country to numerous internal and external threats.

Asked about Lebanon's attitude toward the Iranian-Iraqi war, al-Huss said: We are greatly pained by the blood being shed in this war raging between Iraq and Iran. We wholeheartedly hope that it will stop soon so as to spare both countries' resources in these critical times through which the area is passing.

BUTRUS LEAVES BEIRUT FOR NEW YORK, MAKES STATEMENT

NC260945 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Sep 80

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Fu'ad Butrus left Beirut for New York this morning.

Butrus made a departure statement in which he said: We do not despair because we have a cause which deserves to be coupled with positive results and which is worth moving the conscience of all the Lebanese people. This cause is also worth moving the conscience of the Arab bloc and inducing the Arab brothers to respond to us, despite the difficulties which the Arab bloc sometimes faces. This statement stems from our hope that they will treat us and tackle our affairs exactly as if they were their own affairs. Sometimes we notice that the Arab brothers do not give our affairs the interest they deserve.

We sincerely believe that solidarity between ourselves and our Arab brothers and a deep understanding between us and them constitute very important conditions for overcoming the crisis, in addition to achieving understanding among the Lebanese and to stirring the international and regional state of affairs in the area.

AL-ASAD TELEPHONES KING KHALID, KING HUSAYN ON FIGHTING

JN260537 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Sep 80

[Text] Damascus--His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad held a telephone conversation last night with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The conversation dealt with the situation on the Iraq-Iranian border, the current fighting between the two countries and what could be done to stop this fighting.

His excellency the president and His Majesty King Khalid agreed to continue contacts to exchange ideas on this subject.

Another telephone conversation was held between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal. The conversation dealt with the situation between Iraq and Iran and Arab efforts that might be undertaken to stop the fighting between the two countries.

PDRY CHAIRMAN ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS, MEETS AL-ASAD

JN252245 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Excerpt] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium chairman, arrived at Damascus international airport at 2000 today on his way back from Tripoli to Aden.

President Hafiz al-Asad received him on arrival. Also present to welcome him were Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm; Walid Hamdun, deputy prime minister for services affairs; 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; ministers and the PDRY charge d'affaires in Damascus.

After President Hafiz al-Asad welcomed President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, the PDRY president shook hands with those who were present at the airport to welcome him.

The two presidents, the prime minister, the ministers and the delegation accompanying 'Ali Nasir Muhammad left for the hotel at the airport where a meeting between the two presidents was held. The meeting was attended by the prime minister and the ministers on both the Syrian and PDRY sides.

The two presidents then held a closed meeting.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDED, SADDAM HUSAYN HOLD TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

LD251938 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party, had a telephone conversation today with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. It dealt with the serious situation which the gulf area is experiencing. The brother president also received a message on the situation in the area from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI, PDRY PRESIDENT HOLD CLOSED MEETING

LD251029 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Excerpt] A closed meeting was held last night between the brother leader and Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and PDRY prime minister. The meeting extended into the early hours of this morning.

Press Statement

LD252228 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Sep (JANA)--A press statement on the visit of Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen was issued this evening. Here is the text:

In response to the pan-Arab call made by brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great Fatah revolution, on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the great Fatah revolution, and in view of the need at the present stage of the history of the Arab nation to escalate the revolutionary struggle aginst colonialism, Zionism and reaction, and in view of the pioneering role of the great Fatah revolution and the glorious 14 October revolution, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, paid a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah from 24 to 25 September 1980.

During this visit a deep and fully responsible study was made of the requirements of the current stage of the Arab nation and its revolutionary movement. The two sides agreed that Arab unity is the historic and revolutionary reply to the strategic dismemberment of the Arab nation, the result of the plans of Zionism, colonialism and reaction. They confirm the following:

1. The determination of the two revolutions in Libya and Democratic Yemen to move the Arab nation to the stage of counterattack in confronting the Zionist and imperialist presence and that they shoulder this historic responsibility and its struggle consequences.

2. The two sides agree on the need to draw up a fixed timetable to achieve the unity of the two parts of Yemen in accordance with the Tripoli declaration in order that Yemen will be able to join the nucleus unity state of Syria and Libya.

3. They declare their readiness to fight in one trench anywhere in defense of freedom and stress their determination to resist the American and Israeli presence in the Arab homeland.

4. They confirm their challenge to the American military presence in Egypt, Somalia and Oman and call on the Arab masses and their revolutionary forces to confront this danger and to challenge it.

5. The Democratic Yemen side expressed its profound esteem for the revolutionary precepts and changes being produced by the great Fatah revolution. It stresses the stand of the Yemeni people by the side of the fraternal Libyan Arab people against the provocations and military concentrations of the Egyptian regime along the Libyan border.

6. The Libyan side expressed its appreciation for the efforts exerted by the leadership of the PDRY to reunite both parts of the Yemen.

7. The two sides studied with interest the situation which has developed between Iraq and Iran. The two sides consider this fighting between the two sides to be unjustified, meaningless and serving only the common enemy of the Arab and Islamic nation. They stressed that the natural place for the Iraqi and Iranian armies is the joint front in Palestine to confront the Zionist enemy.

Issued in Tripoli, 25 September 1980.

MAURITANIA

HAYDALA DISCUSSES INTERNAL SITUATION, AFRO-ARAB RELATIONS

AB221931 Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 12 Sep 80 pp 12, 13

[Interview with Mauritanian President Ould Haydala conducted by Bara Diouf--date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] Because of the drought and the population explosion, the Sahel countries are facing a serious problem, that of feeding themselves. The production of foodstuffs is on the decline and international assistance in this respect is becoming rare. Drawing lessons from this, you have appealed to your countrymen to become aware of the situation and to stop expecting salvation from outside, and instead to rely on their own efforts in order to achieve food self-sufficiency. In your opinion, what is the significance of the green revolution which you are advocating? Do you think that the achievement of this fundamental goal is closely related to the construction of dams on the Senegal River within the framework of the OMVS [Senegal River Development Organization]?

[Answer] For us, self-reliance is an all-embracing attitude covering every field. It is both a policy and a moral principle. We believe that we will bring about our own salvation and that nobody can substitute for us in this connection, not even our closest friend. I believe that our progress, and subsequently our development, are related to that attitude of becoming aware of this nation-wide collective effort to be made. We believe that the men of the desert, who formerly faced the adversity of a far more inhospitable climate than now and more precarious living conditions, still possess enough rigor, sobriety and determination to rethink their existence in light of the imperatives of today's world.

Concerning the precise issue of self-sufficiency in the sector of foodstuffs, it is the major priority. Following withdrawal from the war, and after the withdrawal of the foreign troops, we believe that the million and a half or two million Mauritanians living over more than 1 million square kilometers of varied landscapes can and must feed themselves without resorting to begging from the outside world. I know that we are going to have to shake off some habits and a certain mentality instilled by the former regime which created within the people an attitude of passivity and expectation of foreign assistance. But however difficult it will be, we are determined to insure food self-sufficiency for our people. The forthcoming launching of the projects of the Gorgoi Noir, the Aftout-Saheli, the Tamburt Naj, and dams in several regions, in addition to the Hodh Dams currently under construction, make our prospects very promising. The OMVS programs, so vital for the three member countries, will, of course, be profitable to Mauritania.

[Question] The world is going through a profound economic crisis, which spares no nation. The inflation in the so-called developed countries, along with the oil price escalation, has hit hard the economy of some developing countries including ours. Could you give a general picture of the state of the economy in Maruitania given this situation? What solutions would you recommend in order to solve the crisis internationally? What measures do you contemplate in order to limit the damage internally?

[Answer] One must admit that the current economic order is both an anachronistic and a unique one. Therefore, it is no surprise that it is cracking almost all over without the efforts to patch it up being of any help. It is not surprising that the order, which was established without the participation of three-fourths of humanity, should prove fragile and be challenged. A new equilibrium is necessary in the interest of all, and in this connection, the revival of the north-south dialogue is irreplaceable.

Internally, in addition to the structural crisis, you still remember our recent situation after 10 July 1978: Our economy was destroyed; the state stopped payments; the development projects were stopped. We wanted to find urgent solutions, the restoration of public finances. The austerity policy implemented 14 months ago has started to bear fruit and we view the future with optimism at the economic level, with the upcoming launching of a certain number of economic projects.

[Question] Back to the oil issue. Some OAU circles consider that the treatment given to African non oil-producing countries by the oil producers is unfair. Without haggling, one readily recalls the massive help Africa granted in the past to the Arab cause, which makes the disappointment all the more bitter. How does Mauritania view this situation, which in an extreme case may jeopardize Afro-Arab solidarity.

[Answer] Afro-Arab solidarity for us has no alternative. It is a requirement for both Africans and Arabs. To our mind, there is no true Arab that will not defend the cause of Africa, just as a true African must defend the cause of Arabs in their fight against Zionism. Each of these two complementary worlds has duties toward the other. We expect much from the upcoming Arab-African conference and we wish for the drafting of a common platform at the conference which will make it possible to judge each state on precise grounds.

[Question] Still in the economic sphere, China and the Arab countries--Iraq in particular--are in a privileged position in Mauritania's cooperation with foreign countries. Can one say that this is so by choice and because of particular political alliances?

[Answer] We wish to cooperate with every country, under the sole condition that they should respect our independence and our sovereignty. China and Iraq are two of those countries which are granting us significant and varied assistance at a time when we particularly need it and which respect us at the same time.

[Question] Just recently, Mauritania attended a meeting in Bamako on the organization of the Sahel countries. What were the aims of that conference? In the light of the ideological differences and the conflicts betwen some Sahel countries, who could the aims be achieved? Why were some countries excluded from the conference?

[Answer] It was a regional gathering whose political aims were not discriminatory.

[Question] Do you think that the present conflict in Western Sahara is so serious and so irreducible that it will cause the OAU to break up, as some have been predicting since the last OAU summit in Freetown?

[Answer] In any event, I do not wish this to happen. I hope that the continental organization will be able to overcome the conflict and force all the parties to see reason. To my mind, no problem nor any dispute should cause the disruption of that organization, which remains the privileged framework for consultations and action for Africa. Each time, we must respect the decision of the majority. I believe that the majority of Africans are always right.

[Question] In a recent statement to the French daily LE MONDE, you mentioned the presence of individuals opposing your regime in France, Senegal and Morocco. What is the nature and the true influence of this opposition? How could this situation, which you denounced, affect the relations between Mauritania and thse three countries?

[Answer] The influence of these elements lies only in the persons using them. I don't think they are anything but auxiliaries of subversion.

With regard to the above-mentioned states, I think they know us quite well. They know where the profound aspirations of Mauritanians lie. That is why I am more than surprised at their unfriendly attitude. I say unfriendly because it is unthinkable for states with common interests--especially when they are neighbors--to shelter fugitives from justice, malcontents and opposition members without any programs, while pretending to seek friendship and good neighborliness. I consider that a very serious precedent and a breach of the rules which should govern our relations. In any case, I reiterate that Mauritania offers them her true friendship.

[Question] Mauritania and Morocco now have different positions on the Western Sahara issue and some days ago, Nouakchott reported the shelling of northern Mauritania by the Moroccan Air Force. Yet one can observe that officials both in Rabat and in Nouakchott keep expressing the desire to maintain relations of friendship and good neighborliness between the two countries. What steps are you personally planning in order to check the deterioration of your ties? In this respect, what do you expect from Morocco?

[Answer] We expect Morocco to respect our sovereignty, our territorial integrity and our national independence. Otherwise, the relations of friendship, good neighborliness and brotherhood would be meaningless, as I pointed out just a while ago.

[Question] In a recent statement, you called on Morocco to hold discussions directly with the Polisario. How do you find such a dialogue possible as Morocco considers former Spanish Sahara an integral part of her national territory while the Polisario is determined to establish an independent Saharan republic there on the other hand? What importance do you give to the OAU committee in charge of the matter?

[Answer] I understand the difficulty of such a dialogue. But what other prospect is there after more than 4 and 1/2 years of war? The interests of the region and of each warring party demand a minimum of moderation. The policy of neutrality adopted by our country must in principle favor dialogue, as does the recent resolution adopted by the OAU summit in Freetown.

[Question] One cannot speak of the war in Western Sahara without mentioning the role played by Algeria and Libya in this conflict. In the effort to achieve peace such as you advocate, what should be the new attitude of those two countries both toward Morocco and the Polisario?

[Answer] We wish them to help promote good understanding in the interest of the Maghreb.

[Question] Is it accurate that, as was revealed by the Polisario, a secret clause of the 5 August 1979 accord between the SDAR and Mauritania bound Mauritania to restore her part of Western Sahara under the Madrid accord to the SDAR?

[Answer] We do believe that the Saharan people, who are a reality, should freely determine their fate under the leadership of their only representative, the Polisario Front. That is the significance of the secret clause of the accord signed on 5 August 1979.

[Question] Senegal, through President Senghor, has denounced the systematic massacre of black prisoners during the war. Since Mauritania withdrew from the conflict, we believe that she handed back to the Polisario all Saharan prisoners that she detained. It seems that the Polisario has not simultaneously made the same humanitarian move. At most, it has begun to do so, but timidly, according to the 5 August issue of CHAAB. Does that attitude of the Polisario not confirm the worries of President Senghor while showing the embarrassment of the front which is unable to hand over prisoners who do not exist any more?

[Answer] Actually, the majority of the Saharan detainees in Mauritania were released just recently, on the eve of the Id El Fitr.

In regard to President Senghor's statement, I have every reason to believe that it is based on reports from the Senegalese Embassy in Nouakchott. Now, the embassy cannot in any way be better informed than we are. As far as we know, there has never been any massacre of black prisoners, not even in the most critical moments of the war. If there was some truth about such horror, we would have been first to denounce it, because for us, Mauritanians are all equal. The contingent of prisoners, whom you have just mentioned, comprised Mauritanians from all groups of our people.

[Question] What made you announce your decision to abolish slavery in Mauritania? What do you expect from this measure, which we consider revolutionary?

[Answer] Since it restored peace and evacuated foreign troops from the national soil, the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] had as its major preoccupation the abolition of slavery, this social blemish coupled with anachromism. It is not in our nature, nor is it in our methods to cover up injustices as the former regime did for 20 years. The aim of this measure is to make all Mauritanians equal.

[Question] Will this abolition in fact solve the problems linked with this age-old practice, namely the appropriation of land by big land owners who at the same time own and use slave labor?

[Answer] The land tenure problem is independent of slavery. In many countries where slavery does not exist the problem of land appropriation by a minority group is not settled. However, as far as we are concerned, we have set up a commission to study the question in order to complete the decision of abolishing slavery and give it full significance.

[Question] Is it not paradoxical for the state to pay compensation to slave owners while we think it is rather the freed slaves that the government should make great efforts to educate and train in order to rehabilitate them in the society?

[Answer] This compensation, recommended by Islamic law, is not inconsistent with the social rehabilitation of this class of people.

[Question] One of the permanent aspirations of the Mauritanian people has always been, in the absence of a multi-party political system, to maintain a framework of reflection, expression and mobilization of active elements of the country. Can the national volunteer movement which is a first response to this aspiration assume the Mauritanian aspiration for greater democracy alone? What is delaying the reorganization of the Mauritanian trade union which is necessary in order to establish democracy in the social and economic sector?

[Answer] It is true we have placed great hopes in the national volunteer movement as the framework within which the active elements of the country can be mobilized for participation. This is an experience which is peculiar to our country and which is aimed at giving all Mauritanians who so desire the possibility of participating in the reconstruction and recovery effort undertaken by the CMSN while waiting to meet the conditions for the full exercise of the democratic game.

As for the UTM [Mauritanian Workers Union], the CMSN has decided to renew its structures from the grassroots to the top before the end of 1981.

[Question] One last question, a rather indiscreet but a crucial one. When do you hope to return Mauritania to civilian rule and under what conditions?

[Answer] As I said on 10 July 1980, those now exercising power are not doing so with joy. They are doing so as a national duty, seeing that their country was heading towards destruction. In other words, we will not hesitate to go back to the barracks as soon as this duty is accomplished. The CMSN already involves the people within the framework of the national volunteer movement, regional commissions and future communes in the administration of their own affairs.

As soon as the conditions for true independence and the full recovery of the state are met and guaranteed, the national armed forces will prepare the setting up of democratic institutions.

MOROCCO

BOUABID ASSESSES OAU RECOMMENDATION ON SAHARA

LD231123 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 14 Sep 80 p 1

[MAP report on 12 September Rabat press conference by Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid: "Sahara is an integral part of Morocco, and its inhabitants have already exercised their right to self-determination"]

[Text] Rabat, 14 September--On Friday night, Prime Minister and Justice Minister Maati Bouabid returned to Rabat from Freetown where he led the Moroccan delegation.

Speaking to the press, Mr Bouabid stated that Morocco's participation in the work of the OAU ad hoc committee, which met 9-11 September, provided Morocco with an additional opportunity to restate its position with respect to the tension which prevails in the northwest region of Africa. In any case, this position is known:

First, the inhabitants of Sahara have already exercised their right to self-determination;

Second, Morocco has achieved territorial integrity; and

Third, the conflict is an Algerian-Moroccan conflict.

The most positive factor was the presence of representatives of the Saharan provinces, who reaffirmed that they had already exercised their right to self-determination and that they consider the Saharan provinces an integral part of the Kingdom.

"Their statements," the prime minister said, "had a considerable effect, which was reflected in the recommendation adopted under circumstances which I will discuss later. Contrary to what has usually happened in the past, there was no mention of the so-called Polisario in this recommendation made by the 'wise men' committee. However, it calls for the following remarks:

"Three members of the so-called wise men committee have recognized the so-called Polisario and the so-called Saharan Republic. In any event we voiced our reservations with respect to this.

"Certain members of the wise men committee have adopted a stubborn attitude to preceding OAU reports.

"For the second time the wise men committee, or the OAU, has indicated that it will submit the case to the United Nations. This makes us think, if nothing else, that it has found itself in a situation which does not allow it fully to assume its responsibilities.

"As far as the recommendation is concerned, it contains two points. The first concerns the question of a cease-fire and the second the question of a referendum. Morocco's position with respect to a cease-fire is known: Morocco has been subjected to aggression and, in Morocco's view, a cease-fire means an end to acts of aggression perpetrated by its enemies.

"As for the second point, which concerns the question of referendum, Morocco's position is clear, since the inhabitants have exercised their right to self-determination and the Saharan provinces are an integral part of Morocco. This is why no referendum is necessary.

"It remains that the recommendation in question is only a recommendation and will become operative only after it is adopted by a summit of African heads of state."

The prime minister and the delegation which accompanied him were greeted by Mr Dey Ould Sidi Baba, president of the chamber of representatives, members of the government, several deputies, a representative of his majesty the king's governor in the Rabat-Sale prefecture and other personalities.

The Moroccan delegation included Mr M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation; Interior Minister Driss Basri; Secretary of State for Cooperation Abdelhaq Tazi; Khali Henna Ould Rachid, secretary of state attached to the prime minister's office in charge of Saharan affairs; and several other personalities.

BOUABID UNDERGOES 'SUCCESSFUL' OPERATION IN U.S.

LD260206 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] Prime Minister and Justice Minister Maati Bouabid has suffered an indisposition following which he left for the United States where he underwent medical tests as a result of which it was decided to operate on him. We have learned that the operation was indeed carried out, that it was completely successful and that Prime Minister and Justice Minister Maati Bouabid will return to Morocco soon.

BEGIN TAKES EXCEPTION TO CARTER STATEMENT ON WAR

TA240941 Jerusalem POST in English 24 Sep 80 p 1

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin yesterday took exception to President Jimmy Carter's statement that the U.S. "is not involved" in the war between Iran and Iraq.

In an interview with John P. Wallach, foreign affairs editor of the Hearst newspaper chain, Begin said that "Today you are not involved, but tomorrow you may be. Everybody may be because when a war starts you can never tell how it continues and how it ends. If the Soviet Union becomes involved, the U.S. cannot stand on the sidelines and do nothing."

Begin also emphasized that the war helps underscore the potential importance of U.S. military "facilities" in Israel. Referring indirectly to the Pentagon's creation of a rapid deployment force, Begin asserted that the U.S. "should have a presence in the Middle East" and not have to depend on sending forces by sea or air from far away, even from Europe. "Things may be decided here in hours or less," Begin said.

TWO KNESSET MEMBERS MEET WITH 'ARAFAT IN SOFIA

TA250725 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Excerpt] Two Israeli Knesset members, Charlie Biton and Tawfiq Tubi, conferred yesterday with terrorist leader Yasir 'Arafat in what was called an introductory meeting. This has been learned by our correspondent, Arye Gus. Attorney Felicia Langer and member of the Israeli Peace Movement executive Leon Zehavi also attended the meeting. At the end of the meeting between the Israeli MK's and 'Arafat, both parties expressed the desire for a just peace in the Middle East. The meeting was held during a conference of the International Peace Parliament held in Sofia, Bulgaria. West Bank mayors Bassam ash-Shak'ah, Fahd al-Qawasimi and Muhammad Milhim also participated in the conference and met with the Israeli Knesset members.

Demand for Legal Action

TA250957 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Excerpt] The Tehiya faction has demanded that MK's Tawfiq Tubi and Charlie Biton as well as lawyer Felicia Langer be tried for having conferred with Yasir 'Arafat. The faction sent cables this morning on this matter to the Knesset speaker and the government legal adviser. The former was asked to convene the Knesset to remove the Knesset members' immunity. The Tehiya faction asked the government legal adviser to draw up indictments against Tubi and Biton and arrest Felicia Langer immediately upon her return to Israel.

ISSUE OF REQUEST FOR EGYPTIAN OIL UNRESOLVED

TA241414 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 24 Sep 80

[Text] A senior Energy Ministry source says Israel has not yet formulated its requests for a supply of Egyptian oil for next year. Discussions on this issue will continue through the coming months and will deal with both quantities and prices of Egyptian oil. The source stressed to our correspondent that Israel does not want to depend on a single major oil supplier. The source said this was also his position when Israel procured oil from Iran. Our correspondent notes that Israel currently purchases 2 million tons of fuel yearly and that the agreement on this issue with Egypt is for an indefinite period of time. This was stated in reaction to a report broadcast this morning that Egypt has agreed to supply Israel with the entire quantity of oil Israel requested. As mentioned, this issue has not yet been concluded.

KENYA

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS TO TANZANIA OVER 'LAWLESSNESS'

LD251518 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 25 Sep 80 EA

[Text] The Kenya Government has expressed concern over repeated incidents of lawlessness committed by Tanzania's jeshi la mgambo [people's militia] inside Kenya territory and has called upon the Tanzanian Government to restrain her nationals from engaging in activities which are detrimental to good-neighborliness.

This was contained in a protest note sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Government of Tanzania.

The incidents include raids on shops along the Kenya-Tanzania border and harassment of tourists and stock thefts. Those involved have carried out the raids using modern weapons.

The government said it has kept the Tanzanian Government informed regularly about the raids and the names of those who have appeared in Kenyan courts and have been convicted.

The government statement concluded with an appeal to Tanzania that in the interest of maintaining law and order within border villages and towns in Kenya, they should be restrained from entering Kenya illegally. Kenyans along the Kenya-Tanzania border have also been asked to report to authorities any suspected visitors.

Tanzanian Reply

LD251801 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Sep 80 EA

[Excerpt] The Tanzanian Government has expressed its regret over incidents of lawlessness that have been committed by members of the paramilitary units known as jeshi la mgambo. In reply to a note of protest over the incidents along the Kenya-Tanzania border, Tanzania assured Kenya that appropriate measures were being taken in strengthening the security arrangements on the Tanzanian side of the border.

TANZANIA

NYERERE ACCEPTS NOMINATION FOR LAST TIME

LD251526 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 25 Sep 80 EA

[Excerpt] Dar es Salaam--The Chama Cha Mapindozi Central Committee today nominated Ndugu Julius Kambarage Nyerere as sole presidential candidate for the presidency of the United Republic of Tanzania in the forthcoming elections, scheduled for next month. Accepting the nomination, Mwalimu Nyerere said he had accepted the nomination for the last time. He warned about, and once again explained, the danger of asking the same person over and over again to take the presidency. Mwalimu explained that the arguments he put forward in 1975 for the nomination of another person to contest the presidency were still valid. He said one danger of electing the same person from one term to another was that the practice could worry the country.

Mwalimu, who is also chairman of Chama Cha Mapindozi, said changes are inevitable, for even when a president is elected to serve for his lifetime he ultimately has to go, as life itself has an end.

GHANA

LIMANN HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES

AB252013 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] President Limann emphasized today that the government does not intend to amend the 1-year-old third republic constitution. He told a news conference at the state house that his government will carry out the will of the people as manifested in the constitution. He said until the people change their mind about the constitution we do not have any intention to change the constitution.

Asked whether he intended any cabinet reshuffle as advocated by some leading members of the People's National Party the president said, working intimately with the ministers, his views on their ability and performance were different from others. The president said the ministers have been performing better than their counterparts did 10 years ago. The president explained that policies and decisions implemented by ministers are always taken by the Cabinet and it would therefore be wrong to criticize individual ministers for the failure of their policy. The president said he has had no occasion to complain about the performance of any of his ministers and in the meantime he has no intention of bringing in new ministers.

Dr Limann reiterated that the government do not sit down unconcerned [as heard] while a group of workers hold the whole nation to ransom. Dr Limann said his government will not tolerate any act of terrorism or threats from aggrieved workers. Commenting on the dismissal of the afloat officers of the Black Star Line, Dr Limann said they were sacked after all avenues had been exhausted through negotiations. He said the dismissed officers could reapply because the door has not been closed to them.

On the release of AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] convicts President Limann denied that his government had taken part in any attempt to have them released. The president noted that the matter of the AFRC convicts had sensitive security implications and he hoped the courts would take these into consideration.

On the country's external debt Dr Limann explained that his government, on assumption of office, was confronted with the problem of two decades of accumulated debts. He pointed out that given the totality of the magnitude of these budget debts the government has not been able to pay off substantially. All the same it has done something to regenerage confidence in Ghana and open up the country's supply lines. The president stressed that whatever modest payment the government has made strengthens the nation's intention to honor its obligations, which has earned Ghana a lot of goodwill with the outside world. He said during the past year the government was able to defuse the international trade blockade in Ghana and the inhibitions within the international business sector to invest in Ghana are beginning to erode. He said debts have different dates of maturity adding that those who assumed power but refused to honor the nation's external dept commitment did more harm than good to Ghana.

The deputy minister of finance and economic planning, Dr Nyakotey, said these debts were reduced by $86 million between January and August this year from $428 million to $340 million. He said this is in respect of profit dividends, participatory arrears and collection of commodities. The deputy minister disclosed that by the middle of this year the government had spent $224.3 million on payment of outstanding import bills as against $151 million in 1978 and $71.5 million for 1979. He explained that payment of the short term debts had been spread over 28 years with a 10 year moratorium on a reduced 2.5 percent comulated interest rate. He said the nation's medium and long term debt which had been rescheduled following the recent Rome conference with its creditors at present stands at $992 million.

ANGOLA

RULING PARTY APPROVES CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

AB250740 Paris AFP in English 0710 GMT 25 Sep 80

[Text] Luanda, 25 Sep (AFP)--Angola's ruling party has approved constitutional changes making the People's Assembly the supreme organ of state power in place of the Revolutionary Council, which had served as the national legislature.

The head of state's powers as leader of the party, armed forces commander-in-chief and symbol of national unity were confirmed under the changes, approved yesterday.

The assembly, whose 206 members will be elected this year for a three-year term, has the power to declare general mobilization, a state of siege or emergency and to authorise the president to declare war. The cabinet is now responsible to it.

The revised section of the constituton makes no mention of the post of prime minister, which was effectively abolished by the late President Agostinho Neto. Its last occupant was Lopo do Nascimento.

MOZAMBIQUE

OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE CHANGES IN MILITARY STRUCTURE

Resolution on Ranks

LD251724 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0805 GMT 25 Sep 80 EA

[Resolution of the Permanent Political Committee of the Frelimo Party on the introduction of ranks into the Mozambique armed forces; read by Frelimo Economic Affairs Secretary Marcelino dos Santos at Revolution Day celebration in Heroes Square, Maputo--live]

[Text] On 25 June 1962 Mozambique patriots under the guidance of Comrade Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane unleashed the new and victorious phase of the national resistance by founding the Mozambique Liberation Front. The creation of the Mozambique Liberation Front brought about the decisive unity of the struggle of the Mozambique people. It was the front which thereafter defined the armed struggle as the sole means to liberate the country from colonial domination.

Henceforth it became imperative to create the instrument which could make unity operative in order to implement our objective. This instrument was the FPLM [Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique]. The constitution of the FPLM enabled us on 25 September 1964 to unleash the general armed insurrection of the Mozambique people against Portuguese colonialism. Since that time they have performed a decisive role in the armed struggle under the guidance of the Frelimo Party.

After the proclamation of national independence in 1975 the FPLM was called upon to perform a new historic role: the defence of sovereignty and territorial integrity. Always maintaining its profoundly popular nature, the FPLM has been broadening its ranks and developing as new techniques and new types of weapons are introduced. These factors have introduced a qualitative transformation in its structure.

The fourth meeting of the defense department, analyzing the new situation of the country, considered it not yet appropriate to adopt a new structure and organization.

Accordingly, we had to build a bigger army and meet the requirements of the new phase of the struggle by training cadres who could properly grasp the new military science and ensuring that the cadres would be armed with political maturity and ideological unity.

Having defeated class infiltration within the FPLM and attacks by our internal and external enemies aimed at creating instability and promoting counterrevolution to destroy socialism, and with our rich experience of the growth and the complex development of our air, naval and ground forces, we have built a powerful, modern, disciplined and regular army which requires a new structural organization of the FPLM.

Today, as we have achieved the essential qualitative transformation, we need to lay down a rigorous, precise and clear definition of the functions, tasks and ranks assigned to each of us at the various levels of organization and structure of the FPLM. Accordingly, in the exercise of power defined in the Frelimo statutes and in accordance with the fifth article of the People's Republic of Mozambique Constitution, the Permanent Political Committee of the Central Committee of Frelimo Party has decided:

1. Effective 25 September 1980, the system of ranks is introduced into the Mozambique armed forces, the FPLM.

2. Ranks will identify the military hierarchy and will be denoted by insignia and chevrons.

3. A military council of the Mozambique armed forces, led by the commander in chief, including the national defense minister, the chief of general staff, the national political commissar, the interior minister, the minister of security, the deputy ministers of national defense and the commanders of the three branches of the armed forces, has been set up. The commander in chief can appoint other members to the military council.

4. Military regions will be established. Each military region will have its respective military council.

The Permanent Political Committee of the Central Committee of Felimo determines that the People's Assembly should take the corresponding legislative steps for the implementation of the present resolution.

Maputo, 25 September 1980; the Permanent Political Committee of the Frelimo Central Committee.

[Signed] Samora Moises Machel, president of the Frelimo Party.

Law on Ranks

LD251842 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0805 GMT 25 Sep 80 EA

[People's Assembly Permanent Commission Law No 5/80 on military ranks in the armed forces of Mozambique; read by Mozambique Chief of General Staff Mabote at Revolution Day celebration in Heroes Square, Maputo--live]

[Text] By the resolution of the Permanent Political Committee of the Frelimo Party Central Committee on the introduction of military ranks in the armed forces of Mozambique, the FPLM [Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique], of 25 September 1980, the system of ranks in the armed forces of Mozambique, the FPLM, is hereby established.

There is a need to legally establish the fundamental principles and norms regulating the application of the rank system, since this is an aspect of major importance in the armed forces of Mozambique, the FPLM, and of fighters as a whole because the armed forces constitute one of the essential elements of state power in the People's Republic of Mozambique.

Accordingly, under the terms of the provision in the resolution of the Permanent Political Committee of the Frelimo Party Central Committee on the introduction of ranks in the armed forces of Mozambique, the FPLM, of 25 September 1980, the People's Assembly Permanent Commission establishes:

Article 1. The introduction of military ranks: The system of military ranks in the armed forces of Mozambique, the FPLM, is hereby established.

Article 2. The objective of ranks: The ranks identify the military hierarchy and are expressed in chevrons and other insignia.

Article 3. Rank hierarchy and designation: The following comprise the order and designation of the ranks:

Marshal in the army and air force.

A. In the army: general, colonel general, lieutenant general and major general.

Senior officers [oficiais superiores]: colonel, lieutenant colonel and major.

Junior officers and NCO's [oficiais subalternos]: captain, lieutenant, second lieutenant, warrant officer class I, warrant officer class II, sergeant, quartermaster sergeant, sergeant I, sergeant II, sergeant III, corporal, private and recruit.

B. In the navy: admiral, vice admiral and rear admiral.

Senior officers: captain, commander and lieutenant commander.

Junior officers and NOC's: lieutenant, sublieutenant, midshipman, cadet, sergeant, quartermaster sergeant, sergeant I, sergeant II, warrant officer and seaman.

Article 4. Rank designation will be in accordance with the specialist branch concerned.

Article 5. Only fighters who distinguish themselves in the defense of the fatherland and of the revolution will accede to the military hierarchy of the armed forces of Mozambique, the FPLM. Rank hierarchy will be in accordance with the following principles: patriotism; active, dedicated and honorable participation in the armed struggle for national liberation; loyalty to the Frelimo Party; dedication and discipline; and competence. Also taken into account are education and professional competence, military know-how and length of military service.

Article 6. Appointments to the rank of marshal are within the competence of the Permanent Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party.

Article 7. The power to appoint to the rank of general and admiral is within the competence of the Permanent Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, subject to the approval of the military council.

Article 8. The power to appoint to the rank of senior officer is within the competence of the chief in command, subject to the approval of the military council.

The demotion and blocking of promotion of senior officer ranks are within the competence of the chief in command, with the approval of the military council. The (?naming) of senior officers is within the competence of the minister of national defense.

Article 9. The power to appoint to the rank of junior officer and NCO, as in the case of demotion, blocking of promotion and suspension, is within the competence of the minister of national defense acting on the initiative the chief of general staff and the national political commissar.

Article 10. The competence to appoint to the rank of sergeant, as well as demotion, blocking of promotion and suspension, is within the competence of the commander at arms [comandante das armas] as provided in the statutes of the armed forces of Mozambique, the FPLM.

Article 11. Transfer: Movement to the reserve and (?resignation) of officers and NCO's is within the competence of the Ministry of National Defense as provided in the statutes of the armed forces of Mozambique, the FPLM, under the following terms:

Paragraph A. (?Medical recommendation); Paragraph B. (?Amendment) of the statutes of the armed forces of Mozambique, the FPLM; Paragraph C. Incompetence; Paragraph D. Violation of norms and rules governing generals, admirals and officers. Paragraph E. Secondment to other duties outside the Ministry of National Defense.

Approved by the People's Assembly Permanent Commission.

Signed: President of the Republic Samora Moises Machel.

Machel Appointment

LD251746 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0805 GMT 25 Sep 80 EA

[Resolution on rank to be given to Samora Moises Machel by the Permanent Political Committee of the Frelimo Party Central Committee; read by Defense Minister Alberto Chipande at Revolution Day Celebration in Heroes Square, Maputo--live]

[Text] Recalling the great victories won throughout history by the FPLM [Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique], the great statesmanship of Comrade Samora Moises Machel shines highest among them. Samora Moises Machel is the originator and shaper of the development and consolidation of the FPLM.

As a great strategist, he was always able to assess enemy intentions, to determine the exact moment for attack, the time to open new fronts, and he launched the offensive which dealt the death blow that brought about the defeat of the colonialist invader.

Being a man of rare political acumen, he always identified himself with the masses. As a master of the secrets of military art, he was able to meet the demands of the people's revolutionary way. He made an invaluable contribution to military science.

As a frontline soldier in the defense of the people's cause and interests he made war against Portuguese colonialism in order to liberate the fatherland. The war was waged to serve the people and to defend their interests. This was done by carrying out an uncompromising confrontation with imperialism.

As a victorious commander, he was able to transform guerrilla warfare into a war of positions when it became imperative to move on to a higher phase to defeat the enemy.

As an unwavering internationalist and revolutionary strategist, he was able to understand right from the start the need for sacrifices for the consolidation of the justly won independence.

As an unstinting revolutionary, he was able to lead the political struggle within the FPLM, ensuring its class character and leading it to victory and true freedom and democracy.

His life and examplary behavior as a militant have demonstrated in practice that he is a true servant of the people. They are encouragement for the fighters. He is an example to be followed by all.

Observing reality and obeying the sentiment and profound gratitude of all the Mozambique people, the Permanent Political Committee of the Frelimo Party Central Committee wishes to acclaim tne heroism of Comrade Samora Moises Machel. It feels honored to have a man of his moral and political stature as its leader. He is a dear leader and the legitimate representative of the Mozambique people. He is the victorious general of many battles.

Under the terms of Article 2 of Law 5/80 of the Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly, dated 25 September 1980, the Permanent Political Committee of the Frelimo Party Central Committee has the honor to distinguish comrade Samora Moises Machel with the highest military rank of the People's Republic of Mozambique, the rank of field marshal. [applause]

Maputo, 25 September 1980. The Permanent Political Committee of the Frelimo Party Central Committee.

Other Appointments

LD252334 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 25 Sep 80 EA

[Excerpts] Following a decision by the Permanent Political Committee of Frelimo, President Samora Machel has been appointed field marshal. Later Marcelino dos Santos, member of the Central Committee, presented President Samora Machel with the insignia of marshal, the highest rank of the Mozambique armed forces.

The following were appointed lieutenant general: Defense Minister Alberto Chipande; FPLM [Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique] National Political Commissar Armando Guebuza; and Chief of General Staff Sebastiao Marcos Mabote.

The following were appointed major general: Marcelino dos Santos; Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano; Interior Minister Mariano Matsinhe; Frelimo Central Committee member Jorge Rebelo; and Security Minister Jacinto Veloso. Also appointed major general were Raimundo Pachuana, Oswald Tanzama, (Falezio Teodoro Naliandipano), Tome Eduardo, Bonifacio Gruveta, Jose Moiane, Moises Matavele, Armando Panguene, Joaquim Munhepe, Pedro Juma, (Salvador Ntumuque), Joao Americo Mfumo, (Antonio Ama Thai) and (Dias Joaquim Gaiva).

Oscar Monteiro, organizing secretary of the Frelimo Central Committee, and Sergio Vieira, defense department section head in the Frelimo Central Committee, were appointed colonels.